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FBIS-NES-90-086 CONTENTS *3 May 1990*

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak's Syria-Iraq Reconciliation Plan Outlined *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Further on Prospective Summit Plans 1
  Syrian-Iraqi Rift Discounted *[WAKH]* 1
  'Arafat To Invite al-Asad *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
  Media Campaigns To Stop *[WAKH]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Representative on U.S. WHO Position *[MENA]* 2
'Arafat Addresses Tripoli Rally *[Sanaa VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Five Political Parties Form Alliance, Authority *[Algiers Radio]* 4

Egypt

President Mubarak Gives May Day Speech *[Cairo Radio]* 4
President Expresses 'Regret' on Shamir's Remarks *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Mubarak Speaks With Iraqi, Other Leaders *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Reportage, Comment on Sectarian Violence 16
  14 Fundamentalists Killed *[AFP]* 16
  Allegedly Training in Sudan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
  Sectarian Incidents 'Isolated' *[MENA]* 17
  20 Surrender to Police *[AL-WAFD 30 Apr]* 17
Daily Condemns Congress Decision on Jerusalem *[MENA]* 17

Sudan

Government-Garang Talks Postponement 'Expected' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 May]* 18
  Al-Bashir: Negotiations To Continue *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
NSRCC Forms Delegations To Explain Coup Attempt *[SUNA]* 18
Official Denounces AFP's 'Hostile Approach' *[MENA]* 18
Exiled Politician Explains Reasons for Coup Attempt *[BBC]* 18
Minister, Donors Agree To Distribute EEC Food Aid *[SUNA]* 19
SPLA Deplores Al-Bashir Claim on Coup Plotters *[Radio SPLA]* 19
Juba Residents Urged Not To Join Defense Forces *[Radio SPLA]* 19

Tunisia

Libyan Envoy Conveys Leader's Message to Ben Ali *[Tunis Radio]* 20

Western Sahara

Beiba Urges Spain To Put Pressure on Morocco *[Madrid YA 4 Apr]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

- Amir Receives Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister 22
  - Bilateral, Regional Concerns *[WAKH]* 22
  - Amir Receives Rafsanjani Message *[WAKH]* 22
  - Besharati Leaves for Abu Dhabi *[WAKH]* 22

Oman

- Iran's Besharati Calls on Sultan Qabus 22
  - Delivers Message *[WAKH]* 22
  - Leaves Muscat *[WAKH]* 22

PDRY

- Aden Reports North Yemeni Denial of Rebellion *[Aden Radio]* 22
- Diplomatic Relations With United States Restored *[Aden Radio]* 22
- 'Arafat Departs After Airport News Conference *[Aden VOP]* 23

Qatar

- Amir Receives Turkish Industry Minister Yurur *[WAKH]* 23

Saudi Arabia

- Ability to Obtain, Make Nuclear Arms Denied *[SPA]* 23
- Defense Minister Cited on Arms Supplies *[London AL-HAWADITH 27 Apr]* 24
- Finance Minister Discusses Economic Growth *[SPA]* 25

United Arab Emirates

- Iran's Besharati Continues Regional Tour 25
  - Arrives in Abu Dhabi 28 Apr *[WAKH]* 25
  - Meets With President *[IRNA]* 25
  - Rules Out Renewed War With Iraq *[WAKH]* 25
- Moroccan Crown Prince Arrives in Abu Dhabi 2 May 26
  - Received by Shaykh Khalifah *[WAKH]* 26
  - Meets With Khalifah *[WAKH]* 26
- 'Arafat, Zayid Discuss Summit, Threats to Arabs *[WAKH]* 26

Yemen Arab Republic

- 'Informed Sources' Predict Unity 27 May *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
- Unity Minister Denies Rebellion Reports *[INA]* 26
- North, South Prime Ministers Meet, Discuss Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
- President Salih Addresses Nation on 'Id al-Fitr *[Sanaa Radio]* 27

IRAQ

- Events Relating to Extraordinary Arab Summit 29
  - Iraq Supports Call for Summit *[INA]* 29
  - Klibi Invited To Arrange Summit *[INA]* 29
  - Klibi Arrives for Talks *[INA]* 29
  - Arafat, Saddam Discuss Summit *[INA]* 29
  - 'Aziz, Kilibi Discuss Arrangements *[INA]* 30
  - 'Arafat, Aziz Discuss Summit *[VOP]* 30
  - AL-THAWRAH Welcomes Summit *[INA]* 30
  - Klibi Meets With Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
- Baghdad 'Does Not At All' Trust Hafiz al-Asad *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 30
- Official Comments on Nuclear Weapons, Israel *[INA]* 30
- Saddam Ready To 'Forget' Differences With Syria *[AL-BAYAN 1 May]* 31
- Saddam Grants Pardons to Armed Forces Deserters *[INA]* 31
- Conference Means To Stop Undermining of Country *[INA]* 31
- U.S.-Iran Rapprochement Said 'Premeditated Plan' *[INA]* 32
- Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting in Geneva *[INA]* 32
- Turkish Minister Arrives for Joint Committee Meetings *[INA]* 32

U.S. Criticized for Threats To Cut WHO Shares *[INA]* 32
Ramadan Receives Hungarian Ambassador Varga *[INA]* 32
Polish Economic Minister Arrives for Talks *[INA]* 33
  Ramadan Receives Minister *[INA]* 33
  Official Talks Begin *[INA]* 33
  Meeting With Planning Minister *[INA]* 33
Attack on Iraq 'Difficult Option' for Israel *[INA]* 33
U.S. Criticized for 'Courtship' With Iran *[INA]* 33
UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 2 May *[INA]* 34

ISRAEL

Arens Says Shamir Peace Plan 'Must Be Advanced' *[Tel Aviv TV]* 35
Shamir Says U.S. Not Pressuring on Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
U.S. Pressure Leading to 'Destruction' of Peace Process *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 May]* 36
NRP Allocates 1 Week To Seek Unity Government *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Foreign Ministry 'Certain' USSR Will Protect Jews *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

LEBANON

More on Fadlallah Remarks on Hostages, U.S. Ties *[AFP]* 38
Reportage on Militia-Held Iranian Hostages 38
  'Awn's TV Cited *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 38
  Lebanese Forces Contacted *[Beirut Radio]* 38
  Ja'ja' Denies Holding Iranians *[RFL]* 38
Ja'ja' Calls on 'Awn To Hand Over B'abda *[RFL]* 39
  Expresses Support for Lahhud *[VOL]* 39
Al-Rasi Call on 'Awn, Ja'ja' To Withdraw *[VOL]* 40
AL-DIYAR Cited on U.S., Israeli Overflights *[RFL]* 40
  Israelis Break Sound Barrier *[RFL]* 40
'Awn Forces Fire on Civilian Boat, Repel Rescuers *[RFL]* 40
East Beirut Areas Under Fire From 'Awn 'Gunmen' *[VOL]* 40
Israeli, Militia Forces Besieging Town in South *[Beirut Radio]* 40
'Surprise' at Report on Sierra Leone Slave Trade *[Beirut Radio]* 40

SYRIA

Further Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to Damascus 41
  Holds Closed Meeting With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 41
  Closed Meeting Continues *[SANA]* 41
  Holds News Conference *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 41
  Discusses Mideast Issues *[Cairo Radio]* 41
  Al-Shar', 'Abd-al-Majid Confer *[Damascus Radio]* 41
  Visit 'Important' for Solidarity *[Damascus Radio]* 41
  Commentary Praises Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 42
  Relations With Egypt Hailed *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Soviet Envoy on Commitment to Nation's Security *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 43
  Further on Zotov's Remarks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 43
  Views Results of Moscow Meeting *[SANA]* 44
Papers Comment on Importance of Moscow Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Commentary Affirms Strength of Soviet Relations *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Press Views Al-Asad Moscow Talks, Mideast Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Moscow Visit Refutes Enemies' 'Illusions' *[Damascus Radio]* 46
Al-Asad's Visit to Moscow 'Big Political Event' *[Damascus Radio]* 47
'Sources' Cited on Al-Asad's Talks in Moscow *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Apr]* 47
Soviet Support To Undermine U.S. Mideast Policy *[Damascus Radio]* 48
U.S. Policy Remains 'Hostile' to Arab Causes *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Syrian-Soviet Oil Committee Meetings Begin *[SANA]* 49
Polhill's Release Confirms Republic's Credibility *[TISHRIN 23 Apr]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Presidential Decree Ends State of Emergency *[Kabul Radio]* 50
  - Vice President To Head Committee *[AFP]* 50
- Preparatory Commission Set Up for Grand Assembly *[BAKHTAR]* 51
- Najibullah Looks to Perestroyka for Survival *[AFP]* 51
- President Allows Establishment of New Party *[BAKHTAR]* 52
- Return of 20,000 Refugees to Qandahar Reported *[Kabul Radio]* 52

Bangladesh

- Ershad Announces 'Major' Cabinet Reshuffle *[AFP]* 52

India

- Gujral Reaffirms Integrity, Sovereignty on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 53
- Home Minister Rejects UN Team Role in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 53
- BJP Urges Crushing Kashmiri 'Muslim Separatism' *[AFP]* 53
  - Adopts Resolution *[Delhi Radio]* 54
- Kashmiri Leader Leaves New York for Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 54
- Arms Cache Seized, 13 Arrested in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 54
- ADB 23d Annual Meeting Begins in New Delhi 55
  - Taiwanese Delegation Arrives *[Taipei CNA]* 55
  - Singh Addresses Meeting *[Tokyo KYODO]* 55
  - U.S., Other Delegates Differ on China *[Tokyo KYODO]* 56
  - Japanese Minister Criticizes PRC *[Tokyo KYODO]* 56
- Singh's Party in 'Desperate Search' for President *[AFP]* 57
- Minister Announces Economic Plan for Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Iran

- President Rejects Ties, Talks With U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 58
- Khamene'i Scorns Direct Talks With U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 59
- Khomeyni Stresses No Compromise With U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 62
- Majles Deputies Assail 'Direct Talks' With U.S. *[Tehran Radio]* 62
- Majles Deputy Attacks Mohajerani Article *[Tehran Radio]* 63
- Khamene'i Says No Insult Intended to Mohajerani *[IRNA]* 63
- Editorial Urges Exposing U.S. 'Weaknesses' *[KEYHAN HAVAI 11 Apr]* 64
- Graduate Student Expelled From UK 64
  - Arrives in Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 64
  - Assails UK 'Hostility' *[IRNA]* 64
  - Radio Commentary *[Tehran Radio]* 64
- Velayati Leaves for Visit to Finland 2 May *[IRNA]* 65
- Paper Reports Denial of Danish Execution Claims *[TEHRAN TIMES 23 Apr]* 65
- Paper Urges Assessment of Technological Capability *[IRNA]* 66
- National Security Council Meets 28 Apr *[Tehran Radio]* 66
- National Security High Council Convenes 1 May *[Tehran Radio]* 66
- Official Reports on Natural Gas Production *[Tehran Radio]* 66
- Tabriz Airport To Handle International Traffic *[Tehran Radio]* 67

Pakistan

- Further on Japanese Prime Minister's Visit 67
  - Meets With Bhutto *[Tokyo KYODO]* 67
  - Further on Bhutto Meeting *[Tokyo KYODO]* 67
  - Agreement on Kashmir *[Tokyo KYODO]* 68
  - News Conference Held *[Tokyo KYODO]* 68
  - Further on News Conference *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
  - Meets Ishaq Khan *[Tokyo KYODO]* 70
  - Leaders Speak at Banquet *[Islamabad Radio]* 70

Bhutto Invites Emperor To Visit *[Tokyo KYODO]* ... 71
Departs for Sri Lanka *[Tokyo KYODO]* ... 71
Daily Terms Yaqub Khan-Gujral Talks 'Nonevent' *[THE MUSLIM 30 Apr]* ... 71
Indian Kashmiri Leaders Comment on 'Struggle' *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72
Envoy Rejects Indian Claim on UN Resolutions *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72
1 Killed, 8 Injured in Bus Bombing in Lahore *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72
Bomb Destroys Bus, Injures 14 Near Wazirabad *[Islamabad International]* ... 73

Sri Lanka

Japan's Kaifu Arrives for One-Day Visit *[Colombo International]* ... 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak's Syria-Iraq Reconciliation Plan Outlined

JN0205133990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed political sources have reported that in his preliminary meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak presented an Egyptian plan for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. The plan is based on certain assumptions, primarily, the ruling out of preconditions on the part of either side concerning the reconciliation process and that all disputed issues will be open for discussion in a meeting to be held in Cairo this month between the Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers, and in which the Egyptian foreign minister will also participate. The aim of this meeting is to pave the way for a summit between Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn to discuss the future of relations between the two countries and to effect a unified position on other pan-Arab issues.

The day before yesterday, President Mubarak held a telephone conversation with President Saddam Husayn and outlined the Egyptian plan. It was learned that the Iraqi president said he was willing to improve his country's relations with Syria and that President Saddam did not set any preconditions for reconciliation except that the Syrian role must take a pan-Arab approach in supporting Arab issues, as he put it. It was also learned that the evening session of talks between Mubarak and Al-Asad will be devoted to a discussion of Syria's participation in the peace process and that President Mubarak is carrying with him a working paper to be discussed and studied by the two sides.

The working paper includes several new ideas such as:

1. Syria should announce its agreement to take part in current Arab peace efforts.

2. Egypt is prepared to help arrange high-level U.S.-Syrian contacts whose aim will be to learn the details of Syrian conditions for taking part in the peace process.

3. Egypt agrees in principle to Syrian conditions for participating in the peace process, but is of the opinion that the first step should be taken first, namely, holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and conducting elections in the occupied territory.

Our radio has learned that the two sides will discuss the dimensions and extent of the future Soviet role in the peace process in light of Al-Asad's visit to Moscow and Mubarak's coming visit. The aim of the two sides is to establish a joint standpoint, which they will then convey to other international and regional parties.

Further on Prospective Summit Plans

Syrian-Iraqi Rift Discounted

JN0205112090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 May 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (WAKH)—Authorized Palestinian sources in Baghdad today said that an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss Israeli threats to Iraq has become almost certain. These sources pointed out that a date for the summit will be set following consultations with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad today.

Earlier reports from Tunis had said that 15 Arab states have officially announced their agreement to participate in the summit scheduled to be held this month.

The Palestinian sources told WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the crisis of relations between Baghdad and Damascus is no longer an obstacle to holding the summit. These sources stressed that the contacts the PLO held during the past few days have proved that there are guarantees to tackle and overcome this issue for the sake of higher pan-Arab interests. [passage omitted]

'Arafat To Invite al-Asad

JN0205141690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Baghdad say that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Damascus within the next few days to ask Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Baghdad. The sources also said that a Palestinian delegation will leave for Damascus to prepare for 'Arafat's visit.

Media Campaigns To Stop

JN0205145090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1423 GMT 2 May 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (WAKH)—An Arab diplomatic source here today said that Iraq and Syria have decided to stop all media campaigns against each other effective today, Wednesday.

The source, who declined to reveal his name, said the decision is in response to a request from Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, who is moving hectically on the Arab level to pacify the atmosphere with the aim of convening an Arab summit in Baghdad.

Last night, the Palestinian president discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn the results of his contacts in several Arab capitals over the past few days to prepare for the summit. The summit was proposed by the PLO last month to discuss threats facing Iraq and the Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories.

The above measure by Syria and Iraq comes in the wake of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Syrian capital today to clear the Arab atmosphere in preparation for the extraordinary Arab summit.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Representative on U.S. WHO Position

NC0205144290 Cairo MENA in English
1342 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 2 (MENA)—Fatah Movement representative here Zuhdi al-Qidrah condemned the U.S. stance that rejects the Palestinian request to join the World Health organization (WHO). This comes to reinforce its support for Israel, he said.

Al-Qidrah said in statements today that this U.S. stance encourages Israel to mount its arbitrary measures against Palestinian citizens in occupied Arab territories. He urged the international community to counter the inhuman practices of occupation forces against Palestinians.

The official said the U.S. backs human rights all over the world but denies them to the Palestinian citizen whose freedom and humanity are constantly violated by Israeli occupation forces.

'Arafat Addresses Tripoli Rally

JN0205190790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has called for stopping the flow of Jewish immigration to our Palestinian territory. He said: As the Arab summit is imminent, the Arab nation is called on to rise to the level of challenge which is targeted against it as it was targeted against Palestine in 1948. Abu-'Ammar added: We paid the price of Yalta and I am afraid that the Arab nation will pay the price of Malta.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also warned against Israel's rejection of the Arab and Palestinian peace efforts. He said: The Arab nation and the Palestinian people moved toward peace, but they responded with threats, war, and preparations for expansion. However, we reaffirm that we frighten others, but we do not fear them; we threaten, but are not threatened. This Palestinian stone has become the Iraqi [missile] al-'Abid.

Brother Abu-'Ammar urged Iran to end the state of no war, no peace with sisterly Iraq, noting that those who are lying in wait for Islam and Arabism are the only ones who benefit from this situation. Brother Abu-'Ammar said: This situation must end quickly and forever. A new chapter of fraternal relations should begin between Iran and the Arab nation.

This came in the important political speech which brother Abu-'Ammar delivered at the central rally held in Tripoli, Libya, to support the intifadah and to commemorate the second anniversary of the assassination of the symbol leader Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. The rally was held at the invitation of the Arab People's Congress General Secretariat and was attended by many Arab and foreign delegations participating in the Libyan celebrations of the al-Gardabiyah battle and in the intellectual seminar to support the intifadah. Arab and friendly foreign ambassadors, media correspondents, and thousands of Libyan, Palestinian, and Arab citizens.

At the outset of the speech, brother Abu-'Ammar addressed the soul of the martyr leader Abu-Jihad saying: On your anniversary, O beloved martyr, who exploded this intifadah with your efforts and blood, I have nothing to say except to renew the pledge and oath to you and all righteous martyrs. The intifadah and revolution will continue until one of my country's children raises the flag of Palestine, the flag of the Arab nation, over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem, the capital of our state, the independent and free state of Palestine.

Abu-'Ammar added: It is not a coincidence that we celebrate with my brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the anniversary of the al-Gardabiyah battle, which the Arab nation is proud of, on the same day we commemorate the anniversary of the prince of all martyrs despite the darkness that shrouds the Arab nation in this age in which we find people saying to us—as the Jews told Moses: Go thou, and thy Lord, and fight ye two, while we sit here and watch. [Koranic verse]

Therefore, while we are on the threshold of the Arab summit—so far 16 states have agreed on it—the Arab nation should either consider this battle as theirs or they should leave us alone. We, however, will fight. Our decision is to continue the revolution and the intifadah until the last bullet, the last drop of blood, and the last stone in my country. We refuse to see terrorism imposed on our people forever.

The president of the state of Palestine said: Our Arab nation should be aware of what is being prepared against it and against this people who have been exposed to one massacre after another, one plot after another, and one assassination after another. The danger is not threatening Palestine and its people only.

Brother Abu-'Ammar added: In the near past, they blatantly attacked Libya and destroyed al-Rabitah factory; and before this they attacked Iraq. Today, they are threatening Iraq once again. But, sisterly Iraq frankly said—through its knight Saddam Husayn—we will strongly defend our land and people. It was as if we committed a sin by declaring this legitimate human right to self-defense. Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the Israelis are now conducting training in Beersheva, in southern Palestine, on positions similar to those in Iraq and Libya in preparation for a new aggression. They also turned southern Lebanon into an experimental field for this purpose.

Brother Abu-'Ammar spoke in detail about the Israeli policy of repression, siege, starving out, and terrorism against our Palestinian people, who are continuing their valiant intifadah in the occupied territory. He said: The number of civilians wounded has reached 60,000, including 6,500 disabled and 6,800 miscarriages as a result of the use of internationally banned poisonous chemical gases. Brother Abu-'Ammar added that two medical teams from Belgium and the United States carried out tests and affirmed that these gases are poisonous and of the type that are banned and that they are not tear gases. Brother Abu-'Ammar added that the Israelis are preparing for a massacre similar to the Jabaliyah massacre in which four people were martyred and 323 wounded in one day. They cordoned off the West Bank and Gaza.

Brother Abu-'Ammar called on the Soviet friends to stop the Jewish immigration to Israel. He said: From the position of a friend, we call for stopping the deportation of Jews to our country and for not withdrawing their passports.

Brother Abu-'Ammar pointed to the map on an Israeli coin which shows the new Israeli map after the immigration of 3.5 million Jews, as affirmed by the American paper JEWISH JOURNAL [title as heard] on 19 February 1989 on page 109. This map devours Jordan, two thirds of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, one half of Syria, southern Lebanon, and Sinai.

Brother Abu-'Ammar greeted in his speech the heroic martyrs and tens of thousands of prisoners and wounded, affirming that the intifadah will continue until the liberation of Jerusalem.

Many Libyan and Palestinian women rushed to the rostrum to donate their jewelry when brother Abu-'Ammar called for establishing a bank for gold reserves to support the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Five Political Parties Form Alliance, Authority

LD0205192990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpt] Five political parties have decided to establish an alliance and set up a permanent authority. The parties concerned are: The Social Democratic Party; the National Party for Development and Solidarity; the Liberal Social Party; the National Front for Renewal; and the People's Society for Unity and Action. [passage omitted]

Egypt

President Mubarak Gives May Day Speech

NC0105134090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0806 GMT 1 May 90

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the Railroad Club in Nasr City in Cairo on May Day—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate. Brothers and sisters: We are celebrating May Day this year after having celebrated three other holidays. The first was the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, may God send many happy returns of it to us and to the Islamic nation, in circumstances of wellbeing and blessing. The second was the glorious resurrection day. We participate with our brother Copts in celebrating it and we offer them our sincere congratulations and good wishes. The third was Sinai Day and the evacuation from Egyptian territory.

Before starting my speech to you and the people, permit me to express my true feelings on the occasion of this meeting which brings us together every year. My heart is overflowing with feeling. My heart is full of optimism. With my whole mind I welcome this gathering. There is no need for me to ask why such feelings overwhelm me on this particular day. [applause and cheers] I guess you know that it is my nature to take pride in everything which is connected with work. Work means building and addition. Work renews our capacities in the great challenging battles which face all of us and which we all confront in the full belief that we are capable and with every confidence that God Almighty will not suffer to perish the reward of any who do a righteous deed [Koranic verse]. All these thoughts occur to me as I come to you so that together we may celebrate the day of labor and the workers.

Yes, I always reiterate that the day of the workers is the day of labor. History attests that we are a leading nation in the field of building and work. The world has known us as a nation which is a beacon of innovation and the cradle of mankind's first civilization. We are a people who work and build. We are the people who built the pyramids. We are the people who dug the Suez Canal, constructed the High Dam, set up major industrial fortresses, and got rid of feudalism. This people's construction work extended to the building of the new cities and they have truly given knowledge to millions in thousands of schools, institutes, and universities. They have waged the battles of freedom and upheld man's rights. They achieved the immortal October victory [applause] and raised the banner of peace when they were at the peak of their glory and victory.

We are a people who are currently confronting the greatest challenges in the struggle for reconstruction to ensure a dignified life and just society that would safeguard the rights, protect duties, and promote man's dignity. Work is our only course.

Our meeting today, brothers and sisters, is a working meeting to renew the pledge to exert all of our efforts to accomplish our wish, where we will discuss matters frankly and without intimidation and indifference. It is an occasion where we define our steps truthfully, without lies or exaggeration. It is an occasion at which we sincerely review all of the events that could either negatively or positively affect our course toward our great objective: reconstruction.

Brothers and sisters, the primary and strongest basis for every structure of any people is their national unity. National unity is the solid basis; it is the deep-rooted foundation for a strong solid building that storms cannot shake or tornadoes cannot harm. It will remain lofty throughout the ages and generations and will grow with steadfastness, strong enough to protect all the sons and be protected by all the sons. National unity is the great shield which destroys all treacherous arrows regardless of their might. National unity has made Egypt the graveyard of invaders.

This has been established in our past history as well as in our contemporary history. This fact is ignored only by those who seek to falsify facts or assassinate history. Every colonialist who invaded the Egyptian land with iron and fire sought to subjugate the land and people. All the the people and their sons challenged the colonialist, and the land and everything on it rejected him. Every colonialist thought he could deceive the people by driving wedges and sowing sedition among the sons of the people. But he was taught a great lesson by the sons of the one people—that the great family will not be scattered to enable the invader to prevail.

Our fabulous struggle for freedom, sovereignty, and independence has put on record that the Egypt of all Egyptians is the one that hoisted one flag and received the enemies' bullets with one heart. Our fabulous struggle has emphasized that the Egypt of all Egyptians offered the blood of martyrs during the 1919 revolution and supported the 23 July revolution. [applause]

Egyptians represent the Egyptian army, which brought about the glorious October victory. They represent Egypt, which takes pride in stability as an approach to reconstruction and in effecting a reconstruction lit by stability. This is Egypt's nobility, genuineness, and purity. Any action to undermine this genuineness, defame this nobility, or harm this purity is an assault on the legacy of our forefathers, or rather against Egypt entirely. Egypt comes first and everyone must be dedicated to Egypt. [applause]

Protecting our national unity is everyone's responsibility—all the members of the family, the school, the university, all parties, all associations, all democratic institutions, and all mass media. Above all, it is a political, social, and media responsibility. Egyptians will always shield Egypt's stability, reconstruction, and peace. Successive generations have demonstrated this throughout the ages.

On Workers Day I greet the Egyptian workers who set an ideal example. Their actions always reflect their magnificent national cohesion which has been immune to sedition and discord over the ages. [applause and cheers] We congratulate Egypt for having the Egyptian workers. Egypt is the country of one people and one destiny. It is our duty as Egyptians to declare that we will not be lenient or negotiate with terrorists. We will not stop fighting advocates of crime and violence. Democracy is based on respect for differences of opinion, the widest application of the freedom of speech, and the supremacy of the law. Our democracy has no room for those who would stifle opinions, attack freedoms, or rebel against the law.

There will be no dialogue with terrorists who resort to iron and fire and seek to spread destruction and devastation. Let everyone know that the power of the state is stronger than any terrorism and that the security of Egypt and all its sons is sacrosanct. Those who are misled into thinking that they can arbitrarily impose on society anything that society has rejected are deceived. They are also deceived if they think that they can create a state inside a state or use brute force to demolish what we have built over thousands of years.

Let it be known to all those who are maneuvering through secret words, actions, and expressions to resort to intimidation, sabotage, and destruction that Egypt's eyes are neither closed nor blindfolded. Egypt will never sleep. Every decisive measure will be taken in due time. There is no room for manipulation or playing with fire in matters which constitute the pillars of the ruling system and stability. Egypt will always come first and everyone will always be dedicated to its service.

Brothers and sisters: We are devoting all our thoughts and actions to a noble national mission for the sake of eternal Egypt. Reforms and reconstruction in all aspects of life in Egypt are the basis of this mission. This is a hard and complicated process that requires a clear concept of the aim which we are all seeking to achieve, regardless of our positions and our intellectual and ideological beliefs. It also requires a complete picture of the life we want to establish in Egypt while on the verge of the 21st century. This process also requires constant, sincere efforts by every man and woman in Egypt, where workers will play a leading and basic role and will bear a major responsibility that stems from their realization that they have a primary interest in the achievement of every development and progress.

You know that the first difficulty facing us in the battle of reforms and reconstruction is the need to act in all fields simultaneously because of the immense accumulations of more than half of a century, the limited and partial tackling of problems, the absence of comprehensive planning in many cases, and the scarcity of resources because we were compelled to direct a large part of our potentials and resources toward shouldering our defense responsibility at the national and pan-Arab levels.

Making our burden heavier is a fact that we are in a critical stage in the history of the human race. All signs indicate that it is transitional and that it will put the entire world within a new framework where aims, priorities, and relations will differ from those in the second half of the 20th century. The changes will happen faster than futurologists, analysts, and politicians predicted. One feature of this new phase is the erosion of ideological polarization between political, economic, and social philosophies which controlled the internal and external political actions of most countries throughout the 20th century and which saw a violent and tense escalation after World War II.

But the changing circumstances have imposed a new reality on the entire world where challenges are identical, policies are brought closer, many contradictions are disappearing, and where conflict takes a new shape, namely that of peaceful competition, and where many of the slogans that threatened coexistence between various systems for successive decades have been abandoned.

It is nonsense to talk about the inevitability of choosing between the socialist doctrine with its categorical economic and political concept and the capitalist doctrine with its known theories and applications. It is now certain that new concepts without this rigid division between these two doctrines will emerge. These concepts will take from each doctrine what it needs to conform with the technological age and its requirements. It is not unlikely that new views that are not based on the same hypothetical suppositions and logic of any form of these two doctrines will emerge. Rather, they would tend to preponder the practical and factual considerations which impose new concepts of interests, conflict, and social justice and which absolutely are not restricted by facts and basic matters which prevailed for successive centuries in the world and which some treated as if they were divine revelations.

We in Egypt can never be isolated from this development. We do not accept that we remain captives of the past with its shackles and slogans. Rather, we must be able to contribute to the crystallization of this new formula and deal with variable circumstances and new conditions with intellectual openness and active flexibility. We have an additional responsibility and we must confront it and assume its burdens. We must look at the new picture from a wider angle and contemplate its effects on the regional conditions in all parts of the Third World, particularly in the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf and in the African and Islamic worlds. These considerations, brothers and sisters, led to the decision to charge a group of experts and specialists with forumlating a comprehensive concept of an integrated policy for dealing with these variable international conditions, securing the basic interests of Egypt and the Arab nation, safeguarding their strategic security in its widest sense, and guaranteeing them a significant role in preparing the laws of action in the next epoch. The preparatory work for this great national mission is about to end. The door is now open for all sincere efforts to contribute to this great work.

I have no need to say that the Egyptian labor movement will play a prominent role in laying the foundations of this new concept [applause] and drawing up its features because it is the firm base on which any change or development will take place, the force capable of realizing the dreams, and qualified to participate in achieving the required balance between the universality of the issues raised for debate and discussion and the patriotism of the solutions proposed for implementation on the ground, where matters differ in each country.

Seeking a new vision does not mean that we will begin in a vacuum or return to square one, because we have come a long way in adopting political and economic openness, defending freedom of expression, establishing pluralism, rejecting the concept of the one opinion and the monopoly of one party, and believing in every citizen's equal right to participate in the ruling process through constitutional and legal means. There is no difference between the ruler and the ruled, between antagonists and protagonists, or between the majority and the minority. We are all citizens who sacrifice themselves for the sake of the homeland and give their lives for Egypt. [applause]

This cannot be changed by a minority who fail to see the plain facts or whose obstinacy blinds them to the real democratic atmosphere in which we are living. These people boast about what is happening in other countries, even if it is in its early stages. Their behavior is due either to the complex of admiring everything foreign, or to their persistent desire to deny everything positive in Egypt, discourage the young generations, and stifle hope in their hearts. Such behavior reveals a plain weakness in their nationalist affiliation, a shaken self-confidence, and a clear failure to shoulder the national responsibility. To those who spread false rumors I say, fear God for your own sake and for the sake of your homeland. Egypt is capable and so are the Egyptians. This is a plain fact which must take root in the heart of every Egyptian. The Egyptians make miracles and achievements. This is true for those who live on the soil of the homeland and for those who live abroad. The entire world is talking about them with admiration and appreciation. They have thus become a cause of pride for all of us in their scientific and cultural positions.

It is rare to find developing countries with our meager resources who have succeeded in the reconstruction, the adjustment, and the progress we have achieved in the various aspects in such a short time.

The new communities are now full of factories and fields which did not exist before. Old factories are being rennovated and their efficiency is enhanced. Egyptian products, both of the public and private sectors, have reached high standards in terms of quality, having achieved production increase. This a cause of pride for us and a medal on the chest of every Egyptian worker who dedicated himself to the homeland and to his duties. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, I ask with pain and sorrow: Why do we slander ourselves? Why do we belittle the immense successes and exaggerate any shortcoming? You know that I have never advocated the covering up of facts, that I am not one to accept hushing up any and whatever mistake or negligence, and that I am not one of those who try to justify failure. Positive criticism is a duty and self-criticism comes first. But spreading despair is the most dangerous thing that can afflict the nation.

I am telling you these feelings to say that self-confidence is the first step of success. We are a people known for its pride in Egypt, its civilization and history. We are known as one of the sturdiest people and the most devoted to sacrifices and patriotism when the country suffers hardships. We are also a people who have confronted calamities throughout its history, challenged, rallied around, triumphed, and imposed its will.

We do not advocate a slogan which says that it is impossible to do better than before. But we call for a word of truth, to be judged correctly and fairly, and for an awakening that must remain aware of our capabilities. Only Egypt's sons can renew the country.

While on this subject, I want to give you a single example of what some people are saying which does not at all reflect reality. Some people are saying: We support the president in his foreign policy completely. This wise Egyptian policy has brought about good relations with all countries. Egypt is again playing its full role at the pan-Arab level following the rectification of relations between Egypt and the Arab countries. Egypt's African policy has also scored a prominent role whose effects and consequences have appeared at the glorious African continent's level. But there are no similar worthwhile achievements in the internal sphere. This is what they are saying.

Allow me to say that, while certain of the sincerity of some who are saying this, it is self-contradictory. If our foreign policy is successful, then the criteria for this success is the service that foreign policy is rendering to internal reconstruction. Have we brought about the best relations with the Arab, African, and outside worlds just for the sake of exchanging visits and greetings? Our foreign relations are definitely at the service of our internal reconstruction in all economic, social, and cultural fields. If our foreign policy is not used to serve the internal sphere, then what good is it? If our relations with various countries, East and West, have not been good, then could it have been possible, brothers and sisters, to have what we badly need to build our infrastructure almost from zero and to satisfy the increasing local need for confronting the terrible population explosion and the increased rate of consumption? If our relations with the outside world have not been good, then could it have been possible to find new markets for our products, or to expand trade and expertise exchanges so as to move forward and develop the services? Is not our external success in adopting the cause of peace primarily for the benefit of every citizen in Egypt? How then can we understand contradictory words that support and praise our foreign policy while completely ignoring that it and its achievements serve our internal reconstruction?

In the foreign domain, we are exerting almost superhuman efforts. Frankly, however, this does not bother me. I consider it part of my national duty and an expression of our leading role. Egypt has a destiny and we must live up to it. Egypt is always on top and we must keep it there.

By the way, I will visit Syria tomorrow. [applause] I will meet President Hafiz al-Asad and our brothers in Syria. We have a long history with Syria. With this trip, we will have visited all our brothers in the Arab world. [applause] Furthermore, within a week I will again travel from Cairo, this time to the PRC and then Moscow [applause] because these trips are in Egypt's national interest. Otherwise these trips would be worthless.

Why do people get exhausted? Why does an American meet with a Soviet? Why does a German visit England, France, and the United States? Why is everyone going to Moscow and the socialist countries? Is it to go on vacation or to drink tea or vodka? If foreign policy means leaders who go on vacations, we are not ready to exhaust ourselves on holidays.

Brothers and sisters, since I assumed responsibility in October 1981, my primary duty has been to achieve a comprehensive economic reform, because economy is the lifeline for countries and individuals. Economy governs the ability of every society to achieve development and progress. It is economy which enables countries to stand fast and confront pressing local and international pressures as well as increasing social demands.

Recent international events proved the surging significance of the role of economy in the life of countries regardless of their social and political systems. All countries are treating economic reform as their top priority.

It is an established fact that this reform needs a long time to produce the desired results and to affect the daily life of the individual and group. The achievement of this reform requires the cooperation and sincere efforts by every male and female citizen, because the state's institutions and official departments are not in control of all aspects of the economic situation such as supply and demand, production, distribution, consumption, export, and import. Therefore, the citizen's awareness of economic reform and its requirements is an indispensible element for achieving success.

If we do not work now to achieve economic reform which has been delayed for years and has piled up like mountains, we will soon harm the next generation. We all must work for the sake of our sons who are the next generation. It is inescapable that we must shoulder [the burdens]. Frankly, it is something inescapable. We are trying our best to alleviate the burdens. But there are times that if I do not do something specific I will not be able to find food, bread, or anything else. I hope you are not bothered by frankness.

On the other hand, this reform requires coordinated action on various levels. It is irrefutable that the cornerstone in any economic reform is the increase of production and improving the quality of the products. Otherwise, reform will be only ink on paper regardless of the size of the state's revenues and capacities and regardless how perfect and accurate are the policies which the state pursues. Therefore, I consider this a major national issue, and no other issue is as important and momentous. I devote much of my time, thoughts, and effort on this issue. I can find none who are worthier than you to debate and discuss this issue periodically and regularly because you are the men of production, its knights and striking force.

In order to achieve the target, it was necessary that the state provide three main factors which I will explain to you very briefly.

The first factor is the preparation of a five-year development plan with clear targets and policies known to the official organs and popular and supervisory establishments. This will make it possible to determine the extent of success of achieving the targets in short periods and introduce the necessary amendments. This is what we have done in the first five-year plan which began in 1982 and the second plan which will enter its fourth year in July.

The second factor is the establishment of a strong infrastructure which is fit to serve as a support for a considerable period in the field of production. How could this breakthrough be achieved without a leap in the production of electricity, raising the efficiency of transport, communications, hygenic drainage and water for houses networks, establishing industrial and agricultural societies, building new cities, and increasing the capacity of the ports?

I see no need to talk about the conditions of the infrastructure in the recent past. No citizen has forgotten these conditions. This necessitated the allocation of 34 billion pounds for infrastructure projects in the past eight years. We also had to borrow from abroad whatever was necessary to cover the expenses of the foreign component in these pojects without which the term of increasing production would have remained a slogan without any concept. I believe you understand this very well. Could there be an investment when there are no telephones? Could there be an investment when there are no means of transport such as roads and railroads? Could there be an investment when there is no water? Could there be an investment when there is no electricity? Could there be an investment when the basis for investment is not available? When we first invited investors, they came, only to leave immediately, as you all know. An investor used to talk on the telphone but get nowhere, and would then say: We are going to Cyprus or to Greece. They said again and again: This country is no good and it does not want to develop itself. What investment? Should I throw away my money? When the infrastructure was set up and they saw the sewage, electrical, and telephone networks operating, the investors began to invest. Any investor can very easily now get any spare part from anywhere in the world if it is not available locally. He can telephone Japan, America, and Australia. Was such a service available before? When anyone of you wanted to speak to his son or brother in Kuwait, he was put on the waiting list for five (?days) a week. He would then try to reach an understanding with the operator at the central exchange and beg her, saying: Please do me a favor because my son is sick. You lied to the operator, who out of sympathy would give you a line. Is this not what used to happen? The process is simple now. We facilitate investment which means production and jobs for our sons who are increasing at a terrible rate.

The third factor is the implementation of an ambitious renovation program that will enable companies and their workers to increase production efficiently and capably. Public sector companies alone have spent 13.6 billion pounds for this purpose in the eight years since the beginning of the first five-year plan. As you know I have visited large companies in Kafr al-Dawwar, al-Mahallah, and Hulwan. I saw the Misr Hulwan factories. I went there—I believe some of you remember this—in May 1982. I saw that the machines there had been used in the Damietta factories since 1938. Then they were transferred to Hulwan. Now imagine a machine dating back to 1938 and operated by 10 workers. They try to make it work properly and have a lot of trouble with it and after their eight-hour shift they must go home and sleep like the dead because of the headache they will have.

Moreover, the output of such a machine is not enough even for the wages of the workers operating it. Enough of 1938 technology! Renovation has cost us huge amounts and incurred debts. Without such renovation the output of these machines would not have increased. I used to visit the factories in the 10 Ramadan and 6 October cities. I found that they had, for example, imported velvet. I asked why they had not bought velvet from Hulwan where they had installed new machines and renovated their factories within the year. I told them they must buy from Hulwan. They complained that deliveries were late and I told them I would follow up the issue and see if deliveries would be late. This happened once, twice, three times. Now, after they used to import velvet and many other materials from abroad, our renovated factories have begun. [sentence as heard].

Why do we import new machines anyway? To service the other industries. Otherwise we would import everything from abroad and it would be an entirely futile process. This renovation has included numerous textile companies, food and pharmaceutical industries, and the production of household appliances. The private sector companies used the best machinery and most modern methods.

In the language of figures about what has actually been accomplished in this area in the past few years, it is enough to give some examples of the increase in the production of some commodities of importance to the masses. In 1982-83 our annual production of ready-made clothes was 47 million pieces. It currently amounts to 89 million pieces. Our sugar output rose from 719,000 tons to 950,000 tons. Our output of phosphate fertilizers rose from 585,000 to 1.5 million tons. The output of reinforcement steel rose from 338,000 to 1.3 million tons. Add to this our production of public transport vehicles. This rose from 700 or a little more to 1,650. The production of cement rose from 3.6 million tons to 13.6 million. You know about the cement issue and the problems that arose from it and how importers used to hide it or put it on the market as they wanted. It was a terrible matter, a terrible trade. In this way we were able to achieve self-sufficiency with regard to many of these commodities and others. We were also able to open new markets to Egyptian exports.

If we also look at the overall figures of industrial output, we will find that it has risen from 9.8 billion pounds in the first year of the five-year plan to 16.2 billion pounds in the third year of the plan—that is from 9.8 billion to 16 billion. In working out these figures, any increase in price has been disregarded in order to give the figures in real terms.

Agricultural ouput rose from 5.8 billion pounds in 1982-83 to 7.2 billion pounds in 1989-90. It was natural that this noticeable increase in production should be reflected in the amount of Egyptian exports. There is one point, however, that I wish to make. It is true that output is increasing. Exports must increase markedly in order to provide a revenue that will close the gap. My imports amount to $10 billion. My revenue does not exceed $6 billion. I am at the mercy of the oil price—it goes up, comes down. The result is that I increased production and the number of factories and carried out renovations. The production has greatly increased but our consumption, taking into account the population increase, is using up three quarters of this increase. We cannot keep up. Are we going to continue swallowing up everything? Until when? Do you think that we will wait until other people give us charity so that we will be able to live? No. We must look for solutions in this respect.

Our industrial exports, which did not exceed $442 million in 1981 jumped to $1.1 billion. Still, this is not much. True, they increased twofold between 1981 and

1989; however, I want more than twofold. You can find an example in greenhouse-grown cucumbers. This is a simple example which is evident to everyone. Greenhouse cucumbers are harvested in winter. Some complain that cucumbers are expensive. We want to export cucumbers. You are no foreigner. We are accustomed to eating cucumbers in summer and we all plant them in summer. Is it necessary to eat cucumbers in winter, summer, spring, and all seasons? Let us export instead of consuming. You consume the product and complain that it is expensive. The same thing goes for watermelons. Everyone wants to eat watermelons as soon as they appear on the market. They complain that watermelons are sold for one or five Egyptian pounds per kilogram. Wait for the season.

We will find that the ratio of manufactured and semi-manufactured products compared to the export total is constantly increasing. The ratio was only 15 percent in 1984 and increased to 43 percent last year. This is a significant indication and a concrete achievement by the Egyptian workers, manufacturers, and producers. If it were not for the constant increase in food consumption and the horrible population increase, our agricultural exports would have recorded a similar growth, particularly in view of innovations in planting and irrigation systems, and Egypt's unconventional agricultural products would have conquered the markets. I place a bold line under the horrible population increase. We may manage with what we have today. However, if we do not adjust our conditions, bring about economic reform, and adopt family planning to bring up an educated and healthy family we will suffer acutely.

The industrial sector witnessed a breakthrough in recent years when we conquered the field of manufacturing power stations, sanitary drainage facilities, and potable water plants. We now produce between 30 and 40 percent of these giant plants, which are produced by only a few multinationals and major states. Necessity is the mother of invention. I was in need. Should I buy the plant? How much did a power station cost? The biggest plant cost 200 million [currency not specified]. It now costs 2.8 billion [currency not specified]. Therefore, when I ask a bank for a loan, the bank refuses, asking how I will pay. The revenue from the total electricity consumption in Egypt does not cover the cost of operation. Where would I get the remaining amount? Where will the state get the money if it does not have enough revenues?

In time we will manufacture all the equipment necessary for these plants in the castles of the Egyptian industry and by the hands of the Egyptian workers.

If all of society needs to double production in order to achieve the desired economic reform and catch up with the countries that brought about a major industrial and agricultural revolution in the last two decades, the workers will undoubtedly benefit from this development. It is the workers, who are the foundation of production, who will ultimately reap the fruits of development.

Providing a single job opportunity for Egyptian applicants costs an average of approximately 20,000 Egyptian pounds. How then are we to provide 450,000 job opportunities per year without a product and service surplus to provide the new resources necessary to cover such expenditure?

We are careful to increase the wages so that workers can meet the increasing cost of living. Therefore, the total wages amounted to 1.9 billion pounds in 1981-82. In 1988-89 the burden rose to 5.2 billion pounds. It is true that prices are rising, but we are giving the maximum possible increase in wages. Wages increased by 163 percent. I would like to say that price increases were not exclusive to Egypt. Some of you travel abroad and see how high the prices are.

I give an example here, without mentioning names. Here we eat bread and throw it away in large quantities. The loaf of bread is sold at five piasters but it costs us between 12.5 and 14 piasters. A loaf of bread might be bigger or cost more abroad. This does not mean that the price of bread will go up. I say this so that there will be no banner headlines tomorrow. [laughter] You eat a loaf and when you ask for a second, the waiter will bring it and ask for money. Everything costs money. You ask for a third and a fourth loaf, and the waiter will think: Are these barbarians or what?

There is a person who flew with me on a trip to England and France. We were carrying clothes in our luggage but he was carrying bread in his suitcase. [laughter] I will not mention his name because he might be here. [laughter] In London, he quickly ran out of the bread he brought with him and bread in London is expensive. They give you a small slice and you have to pay. He was dumbfounded. He was dumbfounded and would not go out and walk around [because he could not afford enough bread to eat and was weak from hunger]. They found another person to accompany us. He was simply dumfounded. The Egyptian consumes five or six loaves at breakfast, seven or eight loaves at lunch. For example, we were in Kuwait to attend the Islamic conference. The food portion [last word in English] was small and not satisfying. They had an open tent and an open buffet. He ate the food only to give him energy to get to the tent. Once there, he took his time and ate from everything and came out with a fully extended belly and satisfied. [audience asks for his name] No. I will not name him. [laughter]

In addition to all this, the state is increasing public expenditures on the sectors related to the basic services for the masses. For example, expenditure in the educational field rose 55 percent in the past two years, 35 percent in the field of health and social services, and 34 percent in the sector [not further identified].

But my responsibility requires that I admit to you that all of us, wherever we are, must double our efforts to achieve a tangible increase in our productive capacity that is commensurate with the extent of the challenges we are facing and that rises to the levels achieved by friendly Third World countries. This should be done through strenuous and serious work, strict individual and collective discipline, strong will, and the ability to absorb the most complicated technology in Egypt. Nothing is impossible for the Egyptian worker.

This tangible increase in our productive capacity must not only be achieved by setting up new projects but also by operating existing facilities to their limit. This includes the facilities owned by the state and those owned by individuals because all of these resources owned by Egyptian society and they serve it without differentiating between one sector and another, that is, between public and private sector.

Therefore, I call on those who are siding with this or that sector and who base their stands on rigid ideological beliefs at a time when the entire world has abandoned this stagnation and introversion, I call on all those rightwingers and leftwingers to be patriotic and objective and to concentrate their research on the means of increasing the productive capacity of existing Egyptian projects and those that will be set up in the future, no matter who owns them. They are first of all projects set up on Egyptian soil. They create job opportunities for tens of thousands of Egyptian men. They provide many of the high quality commodities and services they need and require. They open many areas for Egyptian exports and they allow us to absorb advanced technology in Egyptian life.

What counts here is that we must continue to develop the systems of administration used in both the public and private sectors. This would give all projects more authority to promote their products and more freedom to make decisions and deal with the market's requirements inside and outside Egypt. The objective behind the development of administration is to increase production and improve work conditions. The objective is not to leave the door wide open for talk about reducing the existing jobs or dispensing with part of the toiling workers. This is because we try to give freedoms that will build, not destroy and that will increase, not decrease. We want to encourage the citizens—producers and consumers—and we refuse to restrict them or harm their rights.

When the existing capacity of employment in the government and public sector companies has reached the limit—no more than 150,000 workers should be employed annually—the arrangements made by the private sector and the joint sector to absorb the remaining number of Egypt's youth in factories and new farms becomes an indisputable national duty unaffected by impotent and unobjective ideologies.

We welcome any foreign cooperation to develop and promote our productive potentials. We hail in particular fraternal Arab participation in this field. [applause] This participation reveals a sound pan-Arab concept of an Arab future. It is enough to give as an example an agricultural project of 400,000 feddans in Sinai at a cost of more than 2 billion pounds. When we talked about a 400,000 feddans project in Sinai and about our plans to set up its infrastructure and when our brothers in the Arab countries expressed readiness to establish the infrastructure on the basis of reform, someone said this is wrong. But why do you want us to build Sinai and at the same time you say no when we have the opportunity to build new compounds? Are we supposed to close the door or open it or are we supposed to lock it completely? It is very confusing. Nevertheless, we will act according to our conscience. We will first discuss the project and then we will implement it.

Some Arab investment and financial establishments will provide the project's needed foreign currency estimated at $320 million. Perhaps what makes this vital project special is that, in addition to increasing the agricultural sector in Egypt, it will provide 200,000 jobs for Egypt's youth who look forward to expanding construction on every inch of Egyptian soil.

Before turning to foreign policy, we will deal with the lies about the public and private sectors. One of our brother writers said: Your excellency, what is going on. You should set a limit for people. Everyone is writing what he wants to write. I told him that I want everyone to write something different. Why are you angry? You say left and others say right. There is an extremist here and another there. This is the best way to crystallize ideas for developing the work.

As you are aware, we have many projects in the governorates. These are about 2,060 projects, all financed by the state. The state invested about 529 million pounds in these projects. In 1989 1,700 projects made profits, while 274 projects suffered losses. The profits, however, are very small. The governorate has a company and a board of directors with two minibuses. The board of directors is under the supervision of government employees. They do not give others a chance.

Some governorates are clinging [to public sector projects]. Why? Cling to them when it is not the state's money. Issue shares to the citizens. Let them operate the projects and assist them. If you get revenue, well and good. What is the use of squandering the money and paying incentives to workers? And if a worker is not paid an incentive, then he files complaints against his colleagues. It is a terrible affair. We must get rid of the projects of the governorates. [applause] I have instructed the prime minister to draw up a program to implement this and to complete it by the end of May.

This is not a sale, mind you. We are not throwing these projects away to be sold very cheaply. No. Shares must be issued and if they do not get a good price, we will wait. We will not offer a tender and sell a 10-pound share for 20 piasters. There are people who are waiting to buy these things cheaply. No, no. The state is no fool. No, absolutely not. It is not a sale. Moreover, the program will be implemented within limits. Nevertheless, the governorates must get rid of this matter and then use the money they have for the citizens' good. I do not want to go into more detail.

To talk about the joint sector—the joint sector and its problems: The joint sector comprises 245 companies. The public sector is a partner in them and invests 2.61 billion pounds in them. Of these companies, 174 made profits. They made a profit but how much? I will not go into detail. The 71 companies which had losses lost a lot. You have heard of the international peace hospital and what happened to it. Most of the money was state money. The Awqaf ministry had paid 40 percent of the capital—I believe they paid about this much.

There are many other instances but I do not want to talk about people any more. The profit margin for all the invested money was two percent. You have a joint sector company. I did not specify prices for you. There were no restrictions and you were comfortable and had large salaries. Some had a 5,000-pound salary and others had a 10,000-pound salary—ten times as much as the president's. They go and lose. God, what a calamity this is. I have instructed the prime minister to give me a program for them. Again it is not going to be a grand sale. We are going to be very careful not to have a grand sale and are wary of people who are waiting to grab up things very cheaply. We are going to have a program so that there will be shares for the citizens. The citizens will become shareholders and make the companies accountable so that the output will increase and the state can relieve itself of this affair. [applause]

Sometimes there are newspaper reports that want to sensationalize. Mind you, we are vigilant for everything. Nothing is done without official approval. If anything is done without approval, I will stop it whatever happens. [applause]

Consider now the public sector's companies. We have 393 public sector companies. The state invests 31 billion pounds in them. Of these companies, 330 have made profits. Of course, numerous companies were losers before. Sixty-three companies had losses. The net profit, after deducting the losing companies' losses, is 1.696 billion pounds. The profit margin is five percent of the invested capital. You will say this is too little. I agree with you. However, why is the profit too small? We intervene a little in setting the prices of the commodities produced by some public sector companies for the sake of social equality. [applause] Another point is that the debts incurred by some of these companies were the result of machine development and renovation. Some machines were 50 or 60 years old when they became no longer cost effective. The companies borrowed money and began to pay installments and had more problems.

There is something that I want to say about the public sector companies, however, and I want this to be clear after the boisterous articles that have been written and the quarrels that have occurred. There are the companies of Kafr al-Dawwar, al-Mahallah al-Kubra, Stea, al-'Amiriyah, the steel complex, the aluminum company, Kema, the fertilizer companies, and other strategic industries. I will not sell these giant factories. However I will instruct the government to find a method to develop their management so that the production will increase, the revenue will increase, and we will relieve them of the debt burden in one way or another and liberate the management. Still I want to say something. [applause] Wait before you applaud. I know you will not applaud this. Wait.

[Indistinct interjection from audience] No, forget about the administrative revolution and other silly slogans. Are we going to deceive ourselves with such slogans? It is up to the factories to revolutionize their methods.

Let us talk about supervisory bodies. Some say that we should allow boards of directors to run the public sector units without outside supervision. Does this make sense? Whose money is this? It is the money of the state, of the people. Can I afford to let a board of directors commit abuses and steal until the company goes broke and then refer the directors to court? By that time the corrupt directors may have left the country with the money and no one will know where they or the money have gone and I will be blamed for the losses. [laughter] Nice, isn't it? They'd fleece the company and the court might never even pin them down, for such crooks are professionals. No. We have to keep the Central Agency for Accounting and Administrative Supervision in charge. We have to have supervision that does not obstruct work.

There is another thing I am thinking of to liberate management. The factory should look into its own costs and decide its own prices. If I wanted to subsidize the products sold at the cooperatives for low-income consumers, this can be arranged if necessary. [applause]

Let's look at the (?types) of public sector units. We do not need all these small-scale concerns. For example, hotels—we do not need to own all the hotels. Why? If a hotel registers losses, we can sell it. Some hotels we rent out bring us only 3 million [currency not specified] in revenue and when 2 million of this is needed (?for improvements), there is very little left for the state. It is better to sell such a hotel for $70 or $80 or $100 million and then the owner will have to do all the work. Besides, I will not sell such ventures to any investor. [Interjection from audience: "To the Egyptians, Mr. President"] To the Egyptians who can afford it. If the buyer is not Egyptian, I will have to know who he is. We do not want people who will give us headaches. Now, I could use the money from the sale to pay off any outstanding debts and invest the rest in another tourist village or another venture. This way I could create jobs and keep the investment going.

This is the right way to do things. In case of ventures of historical value, these deserve conservation and good management. In most cases, however.... [changes thought] Look at the Sheraton near the airport. It is doing good business. It is amazingly profitable while the other companies, run by our own people, are full of bickering and trouble. Why? There are some of our companies that are doing very well, but even these have trouble sometimes. This is why it is better for us not to run such small concerns as hotels, tourist agencies, and the rest of this junk. We do not need this. We need to concentrate on our big and strategic concerns, on our giant factories that are necessary for the country for both social and economic reasons. [unintelligible interjections]

For example, we have a chocolate factory in Alexandria that keeps losing money. The state pays the losses. Does this make sense? Do we have to pay losses for chocolate? We do not need to eat chocolate. Or we could simply turn the ownership over to the public by issuing shares. The private sector can then take it over, and it will make a profit.

There is another thing I want to tell you. Whenever a public sector company wants to expand and needs money for that, it should be able to issue shares to the public. If a company can raise $500 million for renovations, why should I object? If you have any objection let me tell you this: Most of our public sector companies have shares that were sold to the citizens. This is true for the iron and steel factory, Philips, and the porcelain company. In the case of the latter, the private funds amount to 33 percent. Private ownership through shares is also true in the case of Surnajah, Kima, Rakta, Masr Chemical Industries, Abu Qir Fertilizers, Edfina, Biscomisr, Masr Dairy—that one drives me nuts, it keeps losing and then gaining and then losing like someone possessed [laughter]—and Eastern Linens—that one makes profits only if I inspect it and then loses money if I forget to visit for a while and I don't know what is going on. Take Kabu, Arab Rugs, Alexandria Spinning, Port Said Spinning, Dumyat Spinning, Daqahliyah Textiles, National Spinning, Alexandria United—all these are companies with private capital participation.

Look at the construction sector. There is private sector participation in the National Cement Company, Shams Housing, Construction and Housing, United Housing and Development—there is 91 percent private ownership in that company—Masr hotels—50 percent private ownership—Canal Contractors, and many others. We should not be afraid of the private sector. The most important question is: Who are the private sector investors involved? This is where we should be careful. I will not go into detail about this, for this is our business.

I think the picture is clear regarding the public, private, and joint sectors. Are the banks' funds owned by the banks or the people? [indistinct interjection from audience] It seems to me someone like you must be bankrupt. [laughter]

Let us talk about something else before I switch to foreign policy. Let us talk about subsidies. I have read many articles on this issue. Some writers call for abolishing subsidies while others call for maintaining them. It is not that it is easy to abolish them or treat this issue lightly. How can people live? We are working hard to feed our growing population. How can I abolish subsidies in one step? We can abolish them gradually and in a way that will not put pressure on the people. I want to tell you frankly that subsidies are not benefiting those who need them. I will try to explain to you how we started the issue of subsidies so that you can understand the process. In 1960, subsidies cost the state 9 million pounds. That was a considerable sum in those days. In 1970, subsidies increased to 20 million pounds. In 1980, prices went up. In 1975, prices began to spiral while population growth and consumption increased enormously. Subsidies soared to 1.572 billion pounds. In 1988-89, subsidies totalled 3.56 billion pounds.

Brothers, to make myself clear, I want to tell you that with every increase in population and consumption, subsidies will increase to the point that eventually they will consume the state's budget. A time will come when we will have absolutely no funds for anything. We must embark on reforms. I will give you an example: We bake our own bread and we sell a loaf of bread for five piasters, but it costs the state approximately 13-14 piasters. This is not the problem. How much is the subsidy we pay for bread? The bread subsidy totals 3.732 billion pounds [as heard]. Where does this subsidy go? Some of the bread is given to cattle as fodder. Some of the subsidy is tampered with and goes to certain people. Some people are in a rush to open bakeries in order to receive a large amount of flour and sell it as they please. How many sacks of flour is a bakery entitled to per day? Ten? A baker uses five at most, and makes a profit of 40-60 pounds per sack; that is, 200 pounds a day.

Also, the flour in depots is another strange story involving an ugly ruse. We buy flour from farmers at approximately 500 pounds a ton. A farmer sells his flour at 500 pounds a ton and buys subsidized flour at 250 pounds. We subsidize the price of wheat to encourage him to sow it. A farmer thus takes a subsidy to sow wheat and then buys subsidized flour and makes another profit of 250 pounds. If three, four, 100, or 200 people make a profit, what can I do for the rest of the people? I try hard and exhaust myself to find wheat and flour. We travel everywhere and beg various countries to help us and provide us with wheat, but they ask for cash. You cannot imagine the enormous effort we exert to provide bread which many people tamper with and manipulate. No matter what I say, I cannot describe my constant anxiety day and night to provide wheat and feed the people. Despite our efforts, certain people try to profit from this situation. An imported ton of wheat costs us approximately 1,000 pounds. We sell it for 350 pounds. Certain people take this wheat by the ton and sell it to hotels at 1,000 pounds per ton. We must come up with one price, but by stages. When the price is standardized, there will be no more profiteers. We can then provide the state with funds and consumption will be controlled. I can then provide for the needy. We would then have funds to assist and support the needy, but not both the rich and poor, as is the case at present. This is a problem.

Someone suggested that we cancel the subsidies and give cash handouts. At first glance, this might seem like a good idea. Someone can put a few piasters in his pocket, but those few piasters will not buy him anything.

I will speak to you about subsidies so that you will know. I will give you an example: The bread subsidy amounts to 3.732 billion pounds [as heard]. A kilogram of sugar sold by coupon costs 10 piasters. Nothing in the world really costs 10 piasters. [indistinct interjections from audience] I cannot hear you. [further indistinct interjections from audience] The sugar we sell by coupon is produced locally. We pressure the sugar company to sell us a kilogram at a price between 77 and 80 piasters. We sell it for 10 piasters. Do you see how big the difference is? I bet that three-quarters of the citizens who have supply coupons do not use these coupons and instead sell them on the black market. We sell a kilogram of sugar on the open market for 1 pound. It costs the state between 62 and 65 piasters, according to fluctuating world prices. Our sugar subsidy amounts to 660 million pounds. These are correct figures.

We sell edible oil for 10 piasters per kilogram. [Member of audience interjects: "They have increased its price a bit; it now costs 20 piasters."] It costs 20 piasters? Okay, 20 piasters. Perhaps my information is not very up to date. It costs the state 146 piasters. We sell the kilogram of subsidized tea for 262 piasters. We buy it for 546 piasters. The subsidy for all this is between 300 to 400 million pounds. I am just giving you examples. I made a mistake in one case.

Railroad fares are subsidized. Bus fares are subsidized by 50 percent. A university student pays eight pounds, but he costs the state 1,492 pounds. The subsidy for university education amounts to 1,342 million pounds. An elementary school student pays 12 pounds, but he costs the state 144 pounds. The subsidy for elementary education reaches 1.957 billion pounds. The subsidy for farmers is 488 million pounds and the housing subsidy is 612 million pounds.

The state sells a butane gas cylinder to distributors for 65 piasters. You buy it for more than 65 piasters—for one pound and sometimes two pounds. When we increase its price, the distributors make an uproar because they are making the profit. The citizen is ready to pay the difference. [indistinct interjections from audience] You are right, you are right. We will find a solution to this. We sell kerosene for seven piasters; it costs us 29 piasters. Natural gas and diesel oil are subsidized. All these subsidies amount to an astronomical total. I am telling you that with the increase in population and consumption, the state cannot maintain these subsidies. I am not saying I will stop them now. No, this is a gradual process. The country's economy can only be reformed gradually. Our problem with the IMF is that we want a step-by-step solution to the economic reform problem.

[Audience member says control of distribution is the most important thing] The citizens need control. What shall I do? I can bring 1 million police officers to control the bakeries, or the butcher shops, or the vegetable vendors but you go behind our backs and buy things at higher prices. Control must be exercised by the citizen himself, who must report any violation.

Some people complained about the high prices of vegetables at the beginning of Ramadan. I read about this problem. How can I control every situation? The police find thousands of violations. Don't buy vegetables. Will you die from no vegetables? You will not die. The vegetable vendor will be obliged to lower his prices or his vegetables will rot. After two days prices went down. On the first day of Ramadan people bought food as if the world were coming to an end. Everybody ran out and stocked up on food. Some became sick from overeating and went to the doctor. [Audience member calls for strict control of bakeries] Never mind, you are only looking at bakeries. I have many other things to look at. You are a person with a good heart.

You cannot possibly expect me to abolish all these subsidies at once, that is, the subsidies to education and many other activities. How am I going to help out the needy? How are we going to reach out to those who are not in government service? [insidtinct remarks by the audience] I am talking in general terms. Some people do not have government jobs, do not work, and do not have pensions. How many people are in government service? Four million? How about the rest of the population? How can we help them?

With this in mind, I would like to remind our brother citizens that despite all the hardships.... [changes thought] I told you before that when I took office I had two options for reform: Either I make some minor changes and we plod along for six years, or I take the harder road of building the infrastructure from scratch. Most of our infrastructure had to be built from scratch since most of it dated back to the year 1905 or 1906. Rebuilding the infrastructure costs money. Were we going to borrow money to renovate the infrastructure, or not renovate it? We borrowed money and that was all right until we had problems repaying debts because of the oil glut in 1985. In other words, we had to borrow in order to revive the economy, create jobs, and increase production.

The progress we made would have been impossible without the funds we borrowed. Let me give you a few figures. Electricity production was 18 billion kilowatt hours [date not given]; now we have 60 billion kilowatt hours. In 1992, the last year of the five-year plan, this will increase to 70 billion.

Look at telephone lines. We used to have 510,000 lines, approximately 300,000 of which needed replacement. Now we have over 1.9 million lines and by the end of the year the figure will be upwards of 2 million. You may have noticed the improvement in the telephone service.

We doubled the total length of our roads. As for schools, the number of classrooms increased from 199,000 to 284,000. Agricultural output increased from 5.613 billion [unit of measurement not specified] to 12.974 billion. This is quite an achievement, but it was diminished by the concurrent population increase.

The number of nights spent by tourist in Egypt increased from 9.3 to 20.4 million [period of time not specified]. The annual production of medicine increased from 546 million to 1.134 billion pounds. Industrial production increased from 8.778 to 23 billion.

New cities were built. We have five new cities full of activities: 10 Ramadan, October, al-Sadat, Burj al-'Arab al- Jadidah, and al-Salihiyah. There are about 619 factories already operating and 508 factories about to be completed. There are seven other cities under construction, such as al-'Ubur, Bani Suwayf al-Jadidah, al-Minya al-Jadidah, and Sawhaj al-Jadidah.

Now, let me tell you about our exports. This is an important issue for us. We need hard currency to keep our balance of payment even. In 1985-86, our agricultural exports were 569 million, in 1988 this figure was 560 million, and in 1989 fell to 461 million. The exports decreased as consumption increased. There may be some obstacles to exporting, but the main problem is increased consumption.

As for our industrial exports, cotton yarn exports grew from 629 million, to 798 million, to 1.123 billion, and then decreased to 1.019 billion last year [unit of measure not specified]. We hope that industrial exports will grow at a higher rate to bring in more revenues in hard currency.

We were hard hit by the drop in oil prices. Oil fell from $32 a barrel in 1985 to $6. It was a devastating loss. Every decrease of $1 in the price of oil led to a drop of $70 to $100 million in the national income. Our oil exports dropped from $2.378 billion in 1985-86 to $906 million in 1986-87. This was a major blow to us and got us into the fund of misery [IMF] and all that followed. [laughter] A year later, the exports were $1.563 billion and last year the figure was $1.66 billion. Total exports were $2.546 billion in the fourth year of the plan, that is, last year. [inaudible remarks by audience]

Our imports of consumer goods amount to $3.8 billion, semimanufactured goods $4.5 billion, and investment goods $2.839 billion. Our total imports amount to $10.645 billion [figures as heard]. Our dollar revenues are not enough and are only $6 billion. These are the difficulties we face. These are the difficulties we must solve or our factories will stop and we will have less food.

In the field of agriculture, between 1952 and 1981 we reclaimed 1,051,000 feddans. From 1981 until now, we reclaimed 1,750,000 feddans—an increase of 700,000 feddans. There has been great development in agriculture but we need to reclaim more land.

We must cut back on our consumption in any way. For example, the average sugar consumption in the world is about 16-18 kg. In some rich countries it reaches 30 kg. In the Third World countries it is 15 or 16 kg. In the rich countries the maximum is 30 kg. Our consumption is 34 kg. [Question from audience about average consumption in China] In China it is six kg. Our consumption of sugar is very high. We have salaries and pensions to pay. Our pension plans cover 13.8 million people out of a population approximately 50 million people. We pay salaries to 5 million people. Production has made progress in several spheres so that we can face our difficult situation.

Dear brothers and sisters, before I move on to foreign policy, there is a subject about which I have been hesitant to speak. I will talk about it now but I will not mention names. I will address our companies from both the public and private sectors: The quality of products is important. Egypt's reputation is important. The industry ministry's officials in charge of quality control must act and not sit in their offices.

I will give some examples. I know about these personally and I have also received complaints. I will not mention the two companies' names so that they will not suffer now. We will warn them. If they do not wake up, I will write them a letter and then close them. Let them face the consequences then. We will warn them a first, second, and third time.

For example, they make an air conditioner. They say it has two or three horsepower. The citizen buys it and finds out that it does not cool. The agent tells the citizen: I cannot help you at all. If this kind of thing happens abroad, the air conditioner will be returned to the company. I do not want to mention the companies' names but I warn them. Perhaps they are listening to me now. If they do not improve their production and if they do not introduce quality control, I will talk about these companies and spell out their shortcomings. Let them face the consequences. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters, throughout our history, our great nation has lived through many stages of struggle that are rare in the history of nations. Our people have emerged from these hard experiences, in which we have sacrificed our blood, our bread, and our sons, with the strong conviction that peace is the ultimate goal to which mankind should aspire everywhere, regardless of disputes and differences among countries.

Peace is the eternal law God handed down to humanity when He created it. Only peace allows nations to devote their energies and efforts to promoting glory and progress. We call for a peace that is based on true justice, a peace that gives every nation an equal right to peace and stability, and a peace that protects every nation from aggression and oppression. We call for a peace of the brave, a peace that is chosen from a position of strength and might, not from a position of weakness and humiliation.

You may remember that in the speech I delivered at the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Casablanca last May I called for the formulation of an Arab strategy for peace that may serve as a basis for an Arab vision of the future and for joint Arab action.

For the record, I should say that all brotherly Arab countries have chosen the path of a just and lasting peace and made that choice a basic element in the formulation of their policies on various issues. Among these issues are the ending of the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian issue, and the general issue of relations between Arab countries and other neighborly countries and with Eastern and Western countries.

It was my belief in that commitment that promoted the stand which we took in defense of the right of brotherly Iraq to base its policy on the search for peace and the rejection of the policy of harsh words, defamation, and the threat of aggression. Let me reiterate from this podium that we will not let down any Arab or African nation struggling for peace, freedom, and justice. We will not fail to confront aggression and injustice, for any threat to peace is a threat to all of us and a denial of our right to live in peace and security.

This same belief is also what prompted me to call for making the Middle East a region totally free from weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, without excepting any of these weapons or any of the region's states. This is because the willingness of any party to accept such a ban on weapons is contigent on its conviction that other parties will make the same commitment.

Egypt has taken specific steps to rid the area entirely of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery under effective international and regional supervision. Other steps will be taken in the near future to lead to a general acceptance of such a commitment which could safeguard the lives of future generations and banish the specter of fear and anxiety.

We also seek to employ all means to activate the peace process. We hope that the Israeli position will be decided in favor of the achievement of a historic reconciliation with the Palestinian people and all Arab countries on the basis of respect for legitimate Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination. Israel should renounce the concept of regional expansionism and the policy of force, accept the principle of exchanging land for peace, and use negotiations and dialogue as a means to achieve a just and peaceful settlement. Israel should also stop its activities with regard to settlement and oppression.

Even more urgent and necessary than achieving peace among various states is achieving it among the sons of the same people. Therefore, we call on all warring Lebanese factions to end this frenzied fighting on the land of injured Lebanon because the continuing bloodshed and the threat to the lives of innocent people have become a crime which can not be tolerated.

We view with great relief and satisfaction the steps taken this year on the road to eliminating imperialism in the glorious African Continent, especially the independence of Namibia, the release of African struggler and hero Nelson Mandela, and the lifting of the ban on the activity of national liberation movements in South Africa.

In this regard, we commend the great stand which our free brothers in these two countries and in the neighboring Frontline States have adopted. We also commend the role played by the brother leaders of these states and President Sam Nujoma, who has become a symbol of the single African movement and a landmark in the annals of human struggle in Africa.

We look with great hope and confidence to the contacts which have begun with the Government of South Africa. We hope these contacts will result in real progress toward eliminating apartheid and recognizing the rights of our brothers in South Africa.

We will continue to pay great and maximum attention to the debt problem, which is threatening to suffocate the efforts for development and reform in most Third World countries. It is even threatening the very core of the world economic order. Commendable initiatives have been submitted by several friendly states to ease the burden of this problem and limit its negative effects on developing countries. We will follow these initiatives and work to develop them and turn them into a general policy.

All Third World countries, and this includes us, have many debts. We will not be able to pay. They will not grant us payment facilities and will not cancel some of the interest and the terrible burdern. The result will be that I will not be able to pay—I and others because I am not speaking about Egypt alone. Consequently, foreign loans and credits will be stopped and I will not be able to buy. Third World countries buy many products from the rich industrial countries, but I will not be able to continue to do this and therefore they will have a recession. I will have difficulties, poverty, famine, and problems with these countries. Other countries will have unemployment and industry will suffer and have problems. A solution must be found at the international level to the debt issue because it threatens the entire world economy—the Third World countries and the rich countries which have profited from oil and everything else.

Brothers and sisters, having frankly reviewed with you all aspects of our foreign political and economic policy, I have nothing more to say other than that Egypt is more important than anyone and that everyone should devote his efforts to the service of this great country. Egypt is not just a land of plenty and a valley of life. Egypt is not only a shelter, a home, a sanctuary, and a legacy of civilization. Egypt is not just a history of victory and glory. Egypt is not just a pioneer of principles and a beacon of culture, thought, and faith.

Egypt is basically its people: the people who believe in this land, its history, and its virtues; the people who built this land over thousands of years; the people who are patient but not weak, strong but not arrogant, who believe in mercy and tolerance, who are ready to fight and die for peace, and who aspire for a better life and a happy home.

The Egyptian will never forget Egypt, give up its rights, or flee from its battles, because Egypt and the battle for the new society constitute his primary battle. This society lives by the law and does not ignore the cries for help of the weak or the complaints of the oppressed. This is a new society that advocates rights but does not ignore duty. It is the society of the awakening, in which we should call ourselves to account before calling others to account. It is the society of the revival to which we aspire, confident that Egypt's renaissance will only be brought about by the Egyptians. There will be no retreat from the hurdles and no trembling as we tackle the problems. There will be no fear of the unknown, because we have faith. There will be no hesitation in confronting the battles of fate, because we will forge ahead toward the most dignified destiny. There will be no disunity in confronting the intrigue, sedition, or calumny of evildoers. There will be a single united people. We will all race to the vanguard of our united people. No one who infiltrates with deception and hypocrisy to divide this united people or cause a rift in the great shield can belong to us, nor can anyone who hides in the rear out of slackness or weakness belong to us.

All of Egypt is in the forefront of the race for existence. All of Egypt is involved in a great outcry and awakening. It is the awakening of builders and producers. It is the awakening of those who build and protect the edifice, produce, and enrich society without haughtiness or conceit. Egypt comes before everything else and everyone is in the service of Egypt. I am not saying this as a figure of speech to titillate the imagination. No. I am saying it with full conviction because it is an immortal reality. It is a reality in our consciousness. It is the call of the honest in their conscience and is our strong bastion and secure haven. We must deny ourselves and constantly remember Egypt so that it may remember us. In all our work places, be they great or small, we must be worthy of our responsibility and duty. It is no exaggeration to say that at least half of our problems would be solved if every one of us were to follow his conscience in doing his work. Anyone who wastes one hour of his working time in play or fun is a thief of the rights of others and will shoulder the brunt of this grave mistake. Anyone who tampers with decisionmaking, does injustice to anyone, trades illegally in the staple foods of the poor and needy, is stabbing the heart of Egypt that protects him, shelters him, and provides him with the means to lead a decent life. The primary determinant of our behavior, deeds, and responsibilities should not only be the letter of the law or the policeman, but our conscience before God and the homeland. Our conscience tells us that what is fair and right for everyone is Egypt's progress. Egypt comes first and foremost and all are in the service of Egypt.

This, brothers and sisters, is the path and guide so that we may proceed firmly and confidently in a present that requires us all to work with dedication and devotion as we look to the future of those who will come after us. That is the trust we all bear. Let Egypt stay in our consciousness and have conscience as our guide, pioneer, and goal so that together we may overcome hardships through work and efficiency and achieve aspirations through faith and hope. God will reward the hardworking. God knoweth best those who do wrong. God hath power over all things. [Koranic verse] May God grant us success. May God's peace be upon you. [applause]

President Expresses 'Regret' on Shamir's Remarks

NC0105123690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has expressed strong regret at successive statements by Yitzhaq Shamir, chairman of the Israeli provisional cabinet. If anything, these remarks indicate that peace is not Shamir's target, the president said, adding: We are all for peace. Apparently, Shamir does not appreciate the real value of peace, if this is the approach he plans to adopt as the next prime minister of Israel.

President Mubarak made this statement to reporters after delivering his May Day speech today. He emphasized that peace is equally important to the Israeli and to the Arab peoples. He described Shamir's remarks as discouraging and obstructive. He said: We will wait until an Israeli government is formed and its foreign policy becomes clear.

On his visit to Syria, the president said: The Syrians are a friendly people linked to the Egyptians by strong ties throughout history. This will not be my first meeting with the Syrian people for whom and for whose president I harbor respect and admiration. He added: I believe that detente in the Arab nation is vital if we are to face world blocs.

On the possibility of holding an urgent Arab summit, the president said: I support the convocation of an Arab summit once we have studied its agenda closely, so that the summit may adopt clearcut resolutions similar to those adopted by the African summit.

Mubarak Speaks With Iraqi, Other Leaders

NC0105205090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn this evening. President Mubarak also telephoned His Majesty Husayn of Jordan and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic.

Reportage, Comment on Sectarian Violence

14 Fundamentalists Killed

NC0105105690 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—Fourteen Islamic fundamentalists were killed and four wounded during clashes with police, the press reported Tuesday.

The violence erupted on Monday after police tried to arrest three brothers—members of the fundamentalist al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation] movement—who killed their father for urging them to change their ways and surrender to the authorities.

The attempted arrest sparked clashes in which the three brothers and 11 other people died and four were wounded. The incident was in the village of Kahk near al-Fayyum about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from here.

Last April, two fundamentalists were killed during a similar incident in the same region. One was suspected of setting fire to a church in the nearby village of Sanhur and causing the death of a policeman.

Another village near al-Fayyum, Sinnuris, was the scene last month of attacks against the Christian Coptic community.

The al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah group, which was active in the 1970s and seemed to decline in recent years could be making a comeback, analysts said.

It was implicated in the 1979 murder of Muhammad al-Dhahabi, Egypt's minister for religious affairs.

Allegedly Training in Sudan

JN0205184290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egyptian security circles have expressed their concern to our radio over the Sudanese military regime's connection with some hardline fundamentalist organizations in Egypt. These circles assert that the Egyptian government has information that important and influential elements from some Egyptian fundamentalist organizations are present in Sudan and that these elements are being trained in camps close to Khartoum and some areas under the control of the Sudanese Islamic Front.

It is well-known that the leader of al-Jihad organization, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, recently traveled to Khartoum and that the Sudanese Government housed him and his followers in a villa in the Cooper [name as heard] quarter in one of the capital's suburbs.

On another level, it was learned that Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of the Sudanese Islamic Front, will participate in the Algerian Islamic Front's congress at the invitation of its secretary general. Al-Turabi will then make a tour of some Arab and Islamic countries with the aim of coordinating the efforts of the fundamentalist organizations and parties in the Arab region.

Mubarak al-Mahdi, leader of the Sudanese opposition, today held the Islamic Front fully responsible for the massacre of Sudanese officers recently and said that the Front's elements had issued the death sentences against the Sudanese officers. In a statement to our radio, al-Mahdi voiced his fears of a possible new outbreak of civil war in the country because of the practices of the Islamic front in Sudan's society.

Sectarian Incidents 'Isolated'

NC0205130590 Cairo MENA in English 1212 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 2 (MENA)—Recent sectarian incidents were described by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi as "isolated" incidents which did not conform with the harmomy which has always existed between Muslims and Copts in Egypt. The prime minister pointed out that incidents in upper Egypt and in al-Fayyum were individual incidents and were exploited by some elements which did not have the interests of Egypt at heart. The prime minister made the statement in an interview which was published in the Cairo Arabic weekly AL-MUSAWWAR in its May 3 issue.

20 Surrender to Police

JN0205090390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Apr 90 p 1

[By Ahmad Jubayli]

[Text] Al-Fayyum—Yesterday, 20 members of the al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation] group, led by Engineer Shawqi al-Shaykh, handed themselves over to Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Qanawi and Brigadier General 'Asim al-Sayyid, police inspectors at the Interior Ministry. The death toll among members of the group rose to four [figure as published] after yesterday's clashes, which occurred between them and the police organs in the group's stronghold in the village of Kahk near al-Fayyum. Yesterday the residents of the village found the bodies of two more members, who were shot while trying to escape from security forces around the village.

Police forces are currently combing al-Fayyum villages in search of the fugitive members of the group. Muhammad 'Awadallah, chief prosecutor at the al-Fayyum's prosecutor's office, under the supervision of counsellor Mahmud al-Sharshabi, public attorney of al-Fayyum's prosecution offices, is currently studying the investigation minutes submitted by the National Security Investigation Bureau ragarding the hurling of explosives and bombs at the al-Fayyum Hospital and Qarun square.

Daily Condemns Congress Decision on Jerusalem

NC0105065890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper continues to condemn the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolutions considering Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In an editorial today, AL-AHRAM states that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement categorically and firmly condemning these resolutions emphasizes that the Congress has exceeded the limits recognized by all international constitutions and norms.

AL-AHRAM points to the seriousness of the resolutions endorsed by the Congress which has assumed an international authority that supersedes all international organizations and bodies and given itself the right to veto all international efforts and UN and other resolutions on Jerusalem and the Arab rights to Palestine.

AL-AHRAM states that despite the U.S. Administration's announcement that the resolution is not binding on it, America, as a superpower, has placed itself on direct confrontation lines with the legitimate Arab rights to Palestinian territory. With these resolutions, the United States has given the forces rejecting peace a lethal weapon and aborted a major part of the efforts exerted by the peace-loving forces, which Egypt has led and for which it has borne a great deal.

Sudan

Government-Garang Talks Postponement 'Expected'

PM0205142190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 90 p 4

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Cairo sources have emphasized that the consultations currently being conducted between the Sudanese Government and the John Garang movement via some African parties and the United States have still not succeeded in arriving at a final agreement on a date for the next round of talks between the two sides in Kinshasa, the Zairian capital, under President Mobutu's sponsorship, so it is expected to be postponed.

The sources said that the Garang movement delegation headed by Dr Lam Akol, alternate [munawib] member of the movement who is expected to head the delegation to the negotiations, informed Egyptian officials during the delegation's visit to Cairo early in April that the movement is currently studying proposed ideas concerning the dialogue, including the U.S. initiative presented by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, in preparation for announcing its final position.

The sources pointed out that Egypt emphasized to the movement's delegation that the Sudanese Government has a genuine desire to start the negotiations, has taken a number of serious steps toward peace, and has responded to the endeavors and efforts of some African states.

The sources expected the round of talks between the two sides to be postponed in view of recent developments in Sudan following the abortive coup attempt and the death sentences on 28 Sudanese Army officers who took part in the attempted coup.

Al-Bashir: Negotiations To Continue

EA3004221790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, has declared that the dialogue on the proposed political system continues. His excellency confirmed that negotiations with the rebel movement will continue as long as the movement does not object to sitting down to negotiations. He pointed out that arriving at peace through negotiations is the revolution's path.

NSRCC Forms Delegations To Explain Coup Attempt

EA0205125990 Khartoum SUNA in French 0930 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA)—During its regular meeting yesterday, chaired by General 'Umar al-Bashir, the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] examined the failed coup attempt which took place last week and other internal and external matters. During the meeting delegations were set up to pay visits to military units in the provinces in order to inform them about the latest coup attempt.

Official Denounces AFP's 'Hostile Approach'

NC0105201190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 1 May (MENA)—A responsible Sudanese official has denounced a foreign news agency's hostile approach in its reports about Sudan. In a statement today, the official said AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE lacks credibility, obejctivity, and accuracy.

The official noted that this agency adopted a hostile approach toward Sudan during the past few months, showing blatant antagonism toward the achievements of the Sudanese Armed Forces' recent operations in the south. He asserted that the agency carried fabricated and untrue reports, which made it lose its credibility.

Exiled Politician Explains Reasons for Coup Attempt

AB0105192390 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 30 Apr 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's military leader, General al-Bashir, yesterday repeated his allegation, first made in the wake of last week's abortive coup, that the plotters were backed by ousted politicians in league with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Twenty-eight Army officers were executed the day after the coup, and over 40 are still awaiting trial. Exiled Sudanese politicians have made no secret of their aim to overthrow the military council. And almost all of the banned political parties are joined in a formal alliance with the SPLA known as the National Democratic Forum. Mark Doyle asked the forum's spokesman in Western Europe, Dr. Ali Amer, if the forum had been involved in the coup attempt.

[Begin recording] [Amer] The National Democratic Forum has no knowledge of this coup d'etat attempt. But naturally, the National Democratic Forum had been formed and the SPLA (?must really have) joined the forum in March 1990, and the main aim of the formation of this forum is to remove the present junta, which represents only one section of Sudanese people which is the [name indistinct] Islamic group, called the National Islamic Front, and its military wing that is ruling now as the Revolutionary Council Command.

[Doyle] Has there been any reaction, according to your information, to the execution of these and various military people?

[Amer] Yes, there has been a big reaction, one of them was today. Today there was a procession which mainly included all the families of the last victims of this attempted coup, if it ever happened, plus...

[Doyle, interrupting] You mean the officers who were executed?

[Amer] Yes, those executed, and the families of all political detainees. Well, now this is around about [words indistinct]. So at least there had been a move today. Every news that came to me this morning read there was a clash between this procession and the Armed Forces of the militias of the NIF [word indistinct], the National Islamic Front. Some think that there are schisms in the Army itself. There is a condition of unrest (?now) among the units of Army. As far as I know, not a single unit in the Sudan until now has sent a sort of a letter or a cable and so on to take sides by Ahmed al-Bashir's military junta from the Armed Forces whether in Khartoum or outside Khartoum.

[Doyle] You are saying that they haven't been supporting him in his attempt to crush the [words indistinct].

[Amer] No, [they] haven't supported him at all. He didn't receive a single message from any armed unit, whether in Khartoum or outside Khartoum.

[Doyle] How do you know that? You are an opposition politician based outside, and you are talking of military intelligence, which should be inside.

[Amer] Usually they read those messages over the Sudanese Broadcasting Station, and they are evidence that [words indistinct]

[Doyle] So that is your only evidence that they haven't had support because they haven't been reading out these messages.

[Amer] Just get the contacts.

[Doyle] And what, according to your information, does this mean? They haven't been getting the support, according to you.

[Amer] Well, there seems to be a sort of uneasy situation among the various units of the armed forces. [end recording]

Minister, Donors Agree To Distribute EEC Food Aid

EA0205130390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0918 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA)—Some 3,750 tonnes of food supplies presented by the EEC was agreed to be urgently delivered to North Darfur region. The move was taken following a meeting presided over by Relief Minister Peter Orat Ador and comprising representatives of donor countries and international organisations contributing to the second phase of Operation Lifeline Sudan, in the presence of the U.N. representative and supervisor of the operation, Michael Priestly, as well as the displaced [persons] commissioner.

The meeting discussed the displaced conditions and procedures pertinent to the transportation of some 13,000 displaced to Bahr al-Ghazal Province.

SPLA Deplores Al-Bashir Claim on Coup Plotters

EA3004165890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] political-military high command deplores and denounces in the strongest terms the claim of Brigadier al-Bashir that he has uncovered a comprehensive list, both military and civilian, of people whom he says were involved in the alleged coup. Al-Bashir made this statement in yesterday's press conference.

The spokesman said the general is concocting this list to justify his witch-hunt for non-Muslim fundamentalist elements in the Army, police, prisons, and civil service. The spokesman warned that the National Islamic Front junta is about to intensify the witch-hunting. The public is alerted to refuse the repression that is coming.

Juba Residents Urged Not To Join Defense Forces

EA3004165390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Hello, listeners. Greetings to you all in the name of the armed struggle. [passage omitted]

We recently received information saying that some people in the south of Sudan, particularly in Juba, are trying to recruit the people in Juba into the so-called popular defense force. These people are [Lieutenant General, rtd] Joseph Lagu, [Police Colonel] Makelele Nyajok, and [former brigadier in Idi Amin's forces] Umba Gore.

Well, I would like to inform you, the people, that such a thing is never going to work. Nobody can stop the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] at this moment. The time for preventing the SPLA from conducting operations is gone. These people are money and food types, but not peace-loving Sudanese. In fact, everyone in the country knows these people. They were, and still are, known for their past records of corruption.

We are hereby urging the people not to join such a service. However, if you are ready to die, you are most welcome to join the popular defense forces. We are urging you to leave these people alone, because these people have different motives behind the formation of the popular defense forces. They are interested in sacrificing your blood while they enjoy the Muslim brothers' money.

We are telling these people, the Lagu's, that they can never stop the SPLA from capturing Juba. If the Khartoum government cannot stop the SPLA, who else can? The Lagu's should be reminded that the SPLA is less than 10 miles from Juba. Therefore, to stop the SPLA or retake any town under the SPLA is impossible.

These kinds of ideas originated from the Muslim brothers' government, because they are always interested in instigating our people to fight among themselves. However, we in the SPLA are all aware that this regime is best at murdering people, and these popular defense forces were created to murder, but not to defend, as they always claim.

Finally, I am once again urging you not to join the popular defense forces. This is the work of the Lagu's, in order to enjoy the Muslim brothers' money, without even thinking of finding ways and means of solving the problems in the Sudan.

Tunisia

Libyan Envoy Conveys Leader's Message to Ben Ali

LD0205201590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received at the republic's palace in Carthage at noon today Major al-Khuwaylidi al- Humaydi, who conveyed to the head of state a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qahdhdafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution.

The meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, covered the relations of fraternity and cooperation between the two countries and the means to strengthen and develop them.

Western Sahara

Beiba Urges Spain To Put Pressure on Morocco

PM0305091490 Madrid YA in Spanish 4 Apr 90 p 35

[Interview with Mahfud Ali Beiba, Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) "prime minister" by Javier Saz; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Saz] What is your assessment of Perez de Cuellar's recent visit to the Sahara?

[Beiba] The visit was very important for us because its aim was made very clear in the latest statements by the United Nations, which regards the Sahara as Africa's last colony, following Namibia's independence. This is the culmination of four years' work, and we have well-founded hopes that the process will end satisfactorily. The proposals that have been made are only a general framework, but they also signify the start of negotiations that should end with the Sahara's final independence.

[Saz] What role should Spain play in this process?

[Beiba] Spain was the colonizing power in the Sahara, and the United Nations has the resolute intention to resolve this problem, so the colonizing power remains an important reference point. We know that the Spanish Government is at present granting its valuable cooperation by updating and reformulating the 1974 census, which is the basis on which the self-determination referendum is to be held. However, I believe that Spain must have a greater role in this process, especially with regard to exerting pressure on Morocco to accept the terms of the negotiations and abandon its long-standing intransigence. Spain, together with the European countries, can and must perform this crucial role.

[Saz] The American State Departments seems to have set a two-year deadline for the final solution of the Saharan conflict. Do you believe that this deadline can be met? What do you think?

[Beiba] I believe that two years is a reasonable time in which to resolve this problem. In two years' time, moreover, we will share an important date with Spain, which anticipates its union with Europe by then. I believe that 1992 could signify the end of isolation and a date for a new encounter between our two countries, between which peaceful trade relations lasted for over 100 years. Spain and the Sahara are bound to reach an agreement, and the Spanish Government knows that sooner or later it will have special relations with the Sahara, which will revive the cultural and friendly ties that still exist between the Spanish and Saharans, despite everything.

[Saz] With relations as they are right now, when do you believe the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] could again be officially represented in Spain?

[Beiba] At the moment, pressure and steps with respect to Morocco—conducted together with the other European countries—are more important than the mere fact of the Polisario's diplomatic representation. This issue of official representation has remained deadlocked since the meeting with Hassan II in Marrakesh last year, but the promises that we have received from the Spanish Government are very favorable, so we believe that the Madrid office could open anytime.

[Saz] Do you believe that the use of the 1974 Spanish census and the withdrawal of Moroccan troops from the Sahara are a sufficient guarantee for the holding of the referendum on self-determination?

[Beiba] The use of the Spanish census has been confirmed as the basis for the referendum, while the withdrawal of troops and the neutralization of the colonizers—by moving them away from voting locations—are points that must be negotiated in order to secure the necessary guarantees. Keep in mind that we cannot shift a body of 70,000 voters included in the Spanish census—most of them in refugee camps—with the country occupied by Moroccans. But if this withdrawal, urged by the United Nations, is achieved, we will consider it a sufficient guarantee.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister

Bilateral, Regional Concerns

JN0305091190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Manama, 3 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this morning received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is currently visiting Manama.

They reviewed bilateral relations and current developments in the region.

The audience was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain Hoseyn Naraqiyan.

The Iranian official arrived in Manama Tuesday and held a meeting yesterday with the Bahraini foreign minister. Bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, and a number of issues of common concern in light of regional and international changes were discussed.

Amir Receives Rafsanjani Message

JN2804113390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Manama, 28 Apr (WAKH)—The amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, has received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations and as part of an exchange of views on regional issues.

The message was conveyed by 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian first deputy foreign minister, when he was received by the amir of Bahrain in Manama this morning.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Hoseyn Naragyan [name as received], Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

The Iranian first deputy foreign minister arrived in Manama yesterday on a two-day visit to Bahrain.

Besharati Leaves for Abu Dhabi

JN2804174590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Apr (WAKH)—'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian first deputy foreign minister, and his delegation left Manama today for Abu Dhabi continuing a tour of Arab Gulf states. [passage omitted]

Oman

Iran's Besharati Calls on Sultan Qabus

Delivers Message

JN0105184690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Muscat, 1 May (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The contents of the message are not known.

The message was delivered by Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati when he was received by Sultan Qabus here today.

Leaves Muscat

JN0105184990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Muscat, 1 May (WAKH)—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left Muscat this evening after a two-day visit to the Sultanate, thus concluding a tour of countries in the region.

During his visit, Besharati delivered a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

PDRY

Aden Reports North Yemeni Denial of Rebellion

EA0205171990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] An official source has stressed to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA, today that the fabricated report put out by the AFP alleging that there were disturbances taking place in some parts of Yemen was but a facet of the various forms of plotting and conspiracy being brought to bear against the historic steps being taken by the unified Yemeni leadership in declaring the establishment of the unified Yemeni Republic.

The source stressed that security and stability reigned over all parts of the Yemeni homeland and malevolent people had no alternative but to die of their rage. The Yemeni state would be established very soon with the support of the Yemeni people, who have struggled and given up many martyrs to bring this great patriotic aspiration to realization.

Diplomatic Relations With United States Restored

EA3004220490 Aden Domestic Service Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] and the United States in [word indistinct] have decided to restore bilateral diplomatic relations.

A statement in this regard said: The governments of the PDRY and the United States, as a result of the consultations made between their two permanent representatives in New York, give their assurance of their commitment to the principles of equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, and of mutual respect and joint [words indistinct], and have decided to restore their bilateral diplomatic relations with effect from 30 April 1990.

'Arafat Departs After Airport News Conference

EA2804094790 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening, Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, left Aden after a short visit to Democratic Yemen during which he discussed a number of the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and regional arenas. Brother president Abu-Ammar was seen off on his departure by brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, members of the Central Committee, and the charge d'affaires of the state of Palestine in Aden.

In a press statement before his departure from Aden Airport, brother Abu-Ammar expressed his great appreciation for the different forms of assistance provided by Democratic Yemen, stressing that Yemeni unity and its entrenchment was an unequivocal and frank response to the changes and developments in the world today.

Brother Abu-Ammar exposed the Israeli objectives and intentions and the Israeli Government elections game, stressing that they did not have any effect at all as their aim was no more than changing the masks on the stage. Abu-Ammar said that the objective of the enemy was to achieve his dream of creating a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates. Abu-Ammar announced that the enemy was preparing to carry out military operations against a number of Arab countries to strike at the Palestinian forces.

Meanwhile, brother President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas said in a press statement that he welcomed the convening of an Arab summit conference called by the state of Palestine to discuss the latest developments in the Arab arena. He pointed out that this conference would contribute to tackling different issues and challenges confronting the Arab nation.

Yesterday evening, president Abu-Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, met his brother, Haydar Abu Bakr al-Attas. During the meeting there was a discussion of the latest political developments related to the Palestinian issue and developments relating to the intifadah. Brother President Abu Ammar reviewed the suffering of our people resulting from the policies of Zionist repression and oppression. The discussion of an emergency Arab summit due to the challenges menacing our nation because of the Jewish immigration, in addition to the provocations and threats against fraternal Iraq.

Brother president Abu-Ammar expressed appreciation for the steps towards unifying the two parts of Yemen. For his part, brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas reiterated the support of Democratic Yemen for the struggle of our Palestinian people and their valiant intifadah. He announced that Democratic Yemen had agreed to the PLO's initiative for the convening of an emergency summit meeting. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Receives Turkish Industry Minister Yurur

JN0205112790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1018 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Doha, 2 May (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today received Turkish Industry Minister Sukru Yurur, on the occasion of his current visit to Doha.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks during the meeting dealt with the means of promoting joint cooperation between the two countries in all fields, particularly in industrial, trade, economic, and energy fields.

Attending the meeting were Qatari Industry and Public Works Minister Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subay'i and Turkish Ambassador to Qatar Ardogan Eyton [name as received]

Saudi Arabia

Ability to Obtain, Make Nuclear Arms Denied

LD2804171690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1604 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has stated that what was published by the magazine AL-HAWADITH on 27 April 1990, quoting His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, to the effect that "the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is capable of obtaining and manufacturing nuclear weapons" was not said by his highness, and the latter knew of it only when it was published in the magazine.

In a statement to SPA, a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has affirmed "the commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons which the kingdom has signed and entrusted to the ad hoc international organizations."

The source added: "At a time when it is eager to develop and modernize its defensive forces in order to protect its sanctities and defend its territorial integrity, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is in no way thinking of obtaining or manufacturing nuclear weapons, whose removal from the regions where they exist, the kingdom believes, is likely to realize the international peace we desire."

Defense Minister Cited on Arms Supplies

PM2604153290 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Apr 90 pp 18-19

[Unattributed interview with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Are armaments orders expedited in President George Bush's era?

[Prince Sultan] Armament orders are not dependent on individuals or sources. They depend primarily on meeting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's requirements in order to fulfill its objectives of defending its holy places, security, and the Arab and Islamic nation's just causes. They are covered by comprehensive rules determined by Saudi capabilities within the framework of a unified strategic armaments plan. Through such rules the Kingdom's requirements and the types of weapons that comply with these rules can be determined. Then we are free to choose the sources according to the weapon's type and efficiency. On that basis, we have issued a number of orders, and now it is up to the U.S. Administration to respond to these requirements.

[AL-HAWADITH] Have you received all the Tornado aircraft from Britain? What have your visits to Europe achieved regarding armaments?

[Prince Sultan] Most of the Tornado aircraft have been delivered to the Kingdom under the agreement concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's government and the British Government. The first consignment has been delivered in full. The second consigment is currently being delivered. As for our visits to the European states, they have achieved their objectives regarding armaments, as has been reported.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are there Egyptian and Pakistani forces in the Kingdom? Are there any Arab or foreign military bases there?

[Prince Sultan] That question has been raised by some sectors of the media, and I confirm here there are no foreign forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This is because the Kingdom's policy is to rely on Almighty God and the arms of its sons in defending itself and its holy places. But there are military training missions in the Kingdom's military bases, academies, and institutions, solely for training purposes.

[AL-HAWADITH] Israel accuses the Kingdom of possessing and manufacturing nuclear weapons. Do you have such a capability?

[Prince Sultan] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the capability to possess and manufacture nuclear weapons. But, as is known, the Kingdom is in the forefront of states urging that the Middle East be made a nuclear-free region, because it embraces holy places and mankind's heritage. It is also the meeting point of the continents. As is known, the Kingdom promptly signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, whereas Israel refuses to sign it.

[AL-HAWADITH] What has been achieved regarding Saudi armaments under King Fahd?

[Prince Sultan] The custodian of the two holy mosques is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, which have received attention during his reign. More military cities, air and naval bases, and air defense centers have been established in various parts of the Kingdom. They are equipped with various facilities such as accommodation, hospitals, schools, educational establishments, and modern firing ranges. The custodian of the two holy mosques is anxious to monitor the Armed Forces' advancement, modernization, and efficiency himself.

[AL-HAWADITH] There has been talk about the Arab military industry within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. What about that industry?

[Prince Sultan] The GCC states now are proceeding toward the creation of a joint industry within the framework of our plans for self-reliance. There is also cooperation between the general establishment of military industry in the Kingdom and the industries to be developed in in the GCC states.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has Germany delivered the tanks to you? What about submarines? Where have they been purchased?

[Prince Sultan] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's relations with the FRG are strong and based on the two countries' common interests. The trade balance between us is substantial. There are many German companies in the Kingdom. Regarding armament and the purchase of tanks, we have not broached this and nothing has been done regarding that. As for the submarines, the Kingdom is still studying the offers submitted, and we will choose whatever meets our defense requirements.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you expect the Arab Industrialization Organization to be revived? Are there any disagreements over it?

[Prince Sultan] The Arab Organization ended and was dissolved more than 10 years ago. It is now at the stage of being liquidated in order to give all parties their rights. There are no significant disagreements. It is now at the stage of final liquidation.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the Gulf war ended forever, or are the peace negotiations likely to suffer a setback?

[Prince Sultan] The end of the Gulf war depends on Iran and its desire to spread peace and security in the region. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] How would you assess the GCC states' combat capability?

[Prince Sultan] The GCC states are eager to pursue a clear political outlook based on mutual respect for all states, adherence to international charters, and noninterference in others' affairs. Their combat capability has developed, with Almighty God's help, and they are now capable of repulsing and deterring any aggression against them. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Growth

LD3004043790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1756 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba al-Khayl has declared that the results of economic growth in the first three months of the new financial year indicate a steady increase in economic growth in the various sectors, and this includes an increase in the oil revenues of about 5 percent in real terms over what had been estimated when the budget was announced.

This came in a statement made by His Excellency the minister to SPA following the reports published by some Western newspapers on the economic situation in the Kingdom.

His Excellency Aba al-Khayl added: "An expansion of the domestic sector has also been noticed as a result of an increasing internal demand for goods and services, while the ability of the banks to continue achieving good results in 1989 has favored an increasing interest of these banks in expanding and investing in productive projects in the domestic sector."

His Excellency the minister of finance and national economy also stated that there was another aspect worth pointing out, and that is, as he said, the increasing interest of businessmen in contributing to the creation of new companies in the industrial sector, including projects which are part of the Program of Economic Offset, such as the agreement on the Yamamah project, which will be executed in accordance with the agreed program either with regard to the military aspect or anything concerning the industrial projects which will be carried out in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by joint British-Saudi companies. He pointed out that this program was being continuously followed up by the competent government quarters.

His Excellency the minister concluded his statement by saying: "As a result of all this, the total national production in 1990 is likely to see an increase of about 5.5 percent over the 1989 figures."

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Besharati Continues Regional Tour

Arrives in Abu Dhabi 28 Apr

JN2804184090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (WAKH)—'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iranian first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Manama on a short visit to the United Arab Emirates. Besharati is on a tour of states in the region. [passage omitted]

Meets With President

LD2904182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 29, IRNA—Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati is visiting Persian Gulf nations to elaborate on the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the current developments in the Islamic world.

Strengthening of the political, economic, and cultural ties between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries is among the other objectives of Besharati's visit.

While in Abu Dhabi, Besharati submitted a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan Saturday.

The need for maintaining of security in the Persian Gulf by its littoral states without the military presence of the superpowers was emphasized in his meetings with heads of the UAE and Bahrain, he told IRNA here.

Referring to Iraq's impediments in the way of the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598, Besharati said, "We informed the leaders of Bahrain and the UAE that Iran is ready to release all Iraqi POWS upon withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the occupied Iranian lands."

Elsewhere Besharati said Iran has always opposed hostage taking and threats against lives of innocent people. "That is why we have used our influence in Lebanon to secure the release of the hostages," he added.

Rules Out Renewed War With Iraq

JN3004093190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Apr (WAKH)—Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati left Abu Dhabi for Muscat at noon today after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The Iranian official conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on issues related to the Gulf region.

Besharati announced at a press conference today that Iraq and Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution No. 598 and their rehabilitation of what was destroyed by the war affirm their tendency toward peace. The Iranian official ruled out the possibility of renewing the war between the two countries, saying that this prospect is close to nil.

The Iranian official asserted his country's readiness to enter direct talks with Iraq under the supervision of the UN secretary general, provided that the topics to be discussed in these talks are defined. [passage indistinct]

Moroccan Crown Prince Arrives in Abu Dhabi 2 May

Received by Shaykh Khalifah

JN0205120290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH)—Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed Ben Hassan II arrived in Abu Dhabi today on an official several-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Abu Dhabi heir apparent, led those who received him.

Meets With Khalifah

JN0205200290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1808 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, deputy supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces and Abu Dhabi heir apparent, this evening held talks with Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed Ben Hassan II. They reviewed the distinguished fraternal relations between the UAE and the Kingdom of Morocco, and the necessary means to bolster their bilateral cooperation.

The talks also dealt with the current developments in the Arab arena and the world changes and their repercussions on Arab issues in light of the developments and challenges facing the Arab nation.

'Arafat, Zayid Discuss Summit, Threats to Arabs

JN0205151590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held a meeting here this afternoon with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

WAM said the two presidents discussed current political developments and the progress of events in the Arab arena in light of recent world developments.

The two presidents also discussed the implications of the threats and dangers facing the Arab nation, particularly Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine, and the threats to Arab countries, especially fraternal Iraq.

The Palestinian president discussed with the UAE president the Palestinian initiative calling for an emergency Arab summit to deal with these dangers and threats, in addition to peace efforts to resolve the Palestine question.

His Highness President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan reasserted the need for an Arab summit. His Highness also reiterated the UAE's constant position of continuous support for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah, and opposition to the brutal Zionist policy and suppression measures.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat thanked the president and people of the UAE for their enduring support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

Yemen Arab Republic

'Informed Sources' Predict Unity 27 May

JN0305143990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Informed sources in Aden have stated that unity between the two parts of Yemen, slated for November this year, will be declared on the 27th of this month in Sanaa, which will be the capital of the unified Yemen.

Unity Minister Denies Rebellion Reports

JN0205140590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 2 May 90

[Nonaligned Movement pool item]

[Text] London, 2 May (SABA')—Yahya al-'Arashi, Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] minister of state for unity affairs, has termed as groundless the news reports about a tribal rebellion in Sa'dah. He said these reports are a source of amusement.

In statements published in London today, Minister al-'Arashi said that the visit to Aden by YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was made within the framework of consultations between the two leaderships in the two parts of the homeland with a view to putting the final touches to the steps that will be announced in the near future.

Al-'Arashi said that during the four-hour Aden visit, the YAR president held talks with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]; Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general; and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in Aden. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was accompanied on the visit by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime ministers, and Yahya al-'Arashi, YAR minister of state for unity affairs.

Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Sanaa yesterday evening. He was accompanied by the ministers of finance, economy, and petroleum and some experts and specialists. The talks of the PDRY delegation will focus on merging the economic institutions of the two parts of the homeland and effecting a monetary union between them.

North, South Prime Ministers Meet, Discuss Unity

JN0205193590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] A meeting was held this afternoon under the chairmanship of brothers 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, and Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Political Bureau member and prime minister [in the PDRY].

During the meeting, they reviewed several unity topics concerned with the merging of departments and institutions. These included measures already implemented by working groups that were formed in yesterday's meeting, such as entrusting tasks to them dealing with final preparations for merging some service and economic institutions and bodies.

In addition, the special working groups, which were formed yesterday during the meeting chaired by the two prime ministers, will continue their work to finalize the remaining tasks they were entrusted with during the meeting.

President Salih Addresses Nation on 'Id al-Fitr

JN2604144590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 90

["Text" of address by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih "to the sons of our Yemeni people and the Arab and Muslim Nation" on 'Id al-Fitr; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; praise be to God, and prayers and peace be upon his honest and faithful messenger. Brother citizens throughout the Yemeni homeland and abroad: It pleases me to extend to you and to all the sons of our Arab and Islamic nation the warmest heartfelt congratulations and most sincere wishes on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, may God bring with it goodness and blessings on all of us. We express our warmest thanks and gratitude to God Almighty for enabling us and all Muslims throughout the world to perform the duty of fasting during the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of mercy and forgiveness. Today, we are bidding farewell to this month with satisfied hearts, assured of God's reward and attached to the lessons learned in the school of fasting—lessons of patience, persistence, and diligence; of performing good deeds of charity, welfare, and benevolence; and of self-sacrifice and purification of conscience.

Undoubtedly, the joy felt by our Yemeni people on this years' 'Id is greater and more unique than before because the blessed month of Ramadan, apart from the benefits of obedience, worship, and close spiritual contact with God, was full of daily achievements linked to the most important needs of the people and the greatest religious duties, namely Yemeni unity.

By the inspiration of Ramadan's pure, spiritual atmosphere and noble objectives, the last 10 days of the blessed month witnessed the first meeting of its kind for the full command of the one Yemeni homeland, represented by the various constitutional, executive, and organizational bodies. The meeting was devoted to discussing the urgent requirements of the unionist action through a comprehensive assessment of all the achievements and gains toward the restoring Yemeni unity, especially the historic Aden declaration.

In the historic meeting at Sanaa, everyone proceeded from the spirit of fraternal understanding; we were all feeling the gravity of the historic accountability of the unified Yemeni command to the people. A host of positive, important decisions aimed at bringing the day of unity closer was made. The decisions also aim at safeguarding the march of the unionist action and strengthening the unionist state through agreement on all related arrangements. We cannot but congratulate our Yemeni people on all that was achieved in the embodiment of their will and in the expression of their aspirations toward the achievement of the great strategic goal of the immortal Yemeni revolution.

We stress we will continue serious and persistent work with all the masses of our people and their nationalist forces that believe in the goals of the Yemeni revolution to reach the day of great victory—the day when the Yemen republic is proclaimed, God willing. This will be in response to the desire of all the masses of the people and their insistence on a speedy achievement of Yemeni unity. It will be a realization of the great pledge we made when we announced 1990 would be the year of Yemeni unity, and that we in the Yemeni command have no choice but to be faithful to this engagement: "Every engagement will be inquired into on the day of reckoning" [part of Koranic verse]

On this occasion, we express our appreciation for the masses of our people throughout the entire Yemeni homeland for their full support and interaction with the steps made by the command of the one Yemeni homeland. We appreciate their high enthusiasm for achieving unity and their resolute determination to transcend all difficulties and remove all obstacles in the way of unity, and their support for all efforts to accomplish this strategic goal by peaceful and democratic means. We are all eager to make such means the basis of our unionist action with a view to building the foundations of a one

Yemeni homeland based on the principles of justice, freedom, democracy, and progress.

We call on the masses of our united Yemeni people to promote their democratic experience as a right guaranteed by the revolution and its eternal republican system. This must be done in a responsible manner and according to supreme national interests. The citizens must preserve the cohesion and strength of our people's national unity, renouncing the practices and prejudices pertaining to sects, races, tribes, and regions. The revolution had assigned itself the task of wiping out these prejudices and uprooting them from our life, making this task a top aim and priority, second only to its task of wiping out tyranny and colonialism. These are the social ills which were deepened by the imamate and colonialism with the aim of fragmenting national unity and diverting the attention of the Yemeni masses from the goals of liberation and independence and the eradication of tyranny and oppression.

We emphasize our absolute faith in democracy as a popular demand that cannot be abandoned. This democracy should be open to everyone in terms of participation and free expression, embodying all national ambitions and aspirations. This obliges all officials to be patient. No one should be disturbed by democracy, in any case, because it is the symbol of civilized behavior and the sign of the last decade of the 20th century, which is witnessing most important and serious changes in various world regions, invoking legitimate democratic principles.

As for our united Yemeni people, democracy is a cultural heritage that has characterized them from ancient times, using it as a basis for the most glorious human civilizations.

Brothers: Our people realize their unity will not only be a source of strength and pride for Yemen, but also a great backing and strength for the entire Arab and Islamic nations and an opening for Arab unity that will realize the Arab nation's aspirations for strength and power, which will ward off enemy plots, machinations, and evil grudges. The Arab nation has faced and is still facing plots of aggression, the most serious being the fierce campaign by the Arab nation's archenemies against fraternal Iraq under flimsy and unjust pretexts—the leveling of accusations and threats aimed against the entire Arab nation. Arab peoples must firmly confront these campaigns and must stand united in a single bloc with fraternal Iraq and every Arab state exposed to threats and aggression by the nation's enemies, embodying the spirit of Arab solidarity, providing protection for the unified and indivisible Arab security, and bolstering the nation's ability to confront all the challenges facing it.

The unified Yemeni leadership has stated our people and country will devote all their resources to assisting any fraternal Arab country that may be exposed to aggression, especially steadfast Iraq, so it may exercise its right to protect and defend its security and sovereignty and right to acquire scientific and technological progress, which it seeks as a legitimate right for peoples and nations the world over.

At the same time, we call on all brothers and peace-loving people in the world to give greater support and backing to the Palestinian people's valiant intifadah, since it struggles to confront all the Zionist aggressive acts and bestial measures used against women, children, and the elderly, who have absolutely no weapons at all, other than their belief in their right and the stones with which they are defending themselves—the defense of the dying before the heretic beast.

Dear Brother Citizens, while our people are living the joys of the victory of unity, which was realized during the blessed month of fasting, we must remember the great and teeming lessons of this month which call on all to benefit from them in practical daily life, to invest them in producing good will and piety, to step up effort and work in all the production and services sectors, and to increase the levels of performance and achievement to render our development program a complete success. This program is considered our people's wager to overcome all effects and influences of the past.

We are requested more than even before to pour all our efforts into adding new things to the life of our Yemeni people, which will strengthen their adherence to their noble religious and Arab values—the basis of a sound society and bond of its unity.

Therefore, the blessed 'Id al-Fitr days will undoubtedly be days for an honest interpretation of the real meanings of the 'Id, such as values noble to the life of the Muslims and the lofty religious feelings that prevail during the 'Id, linked to [words indistinct], helping the poor, strengthening peace, and entrenching the ties of love, brotherhood, and cooperation so that will join hands to manifest one will—the desire for good, the dignity and honor of the nation, and the strength and immunity of Yemen.

Brother Citizens, I congratulate you once more and on your behalf I address my warm congratulations to the valiant men and the fighter martyrs, the sons of the Armed Forces and security in the united Yemeni homeland, the faithful soldiers who protect the security and stability and guard national sovereignty, those who daily provide the greatest examples in the field of sacrifice and giving to perform the holy duty. I ask God the Almighty to bless all the noble martyrs and realize for our people everything they hope for, which is to preserve our country and offer the examples of this 'Id once again for our people and our Arab and Islamic nation with prosperity and peace. God hears and responds. Have a blessed 'Id, and may God bless you over and over again. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Events Relating to Extraordinary Arab Summit

Iraq Supports Call for Summit

JN3004182390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Tunis, 30 Apr (INA)—Iraq has supported the call made by the state of Palestine to convene an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss and deal with the grave threats facing Arab national security.

This was stated by Hamid 'Ulwan al-Juburi, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, in statements he made to the INA correspondent in Tunis today. He said that Iraq has welcomed the proposal to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

Fifteen Arab countries have already agreed to take part in the extraordinary Arab summit. Those are: Jordan, Yemen Arab Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, Tunisia, Qatar, Algeria, Djibouti, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Palestine, as well as Iraq.

It is worth mentioning that the state of Palestine has urged the Arab League's General Secretariat to convene an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Klibi Invited To Arrange Summit

JN0105164190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Iraq has welcomed the proposed extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss and deal with the serious threats to the pan-Arab security.

This came in a letter sent by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The following is the text of the letter:

His Excellency Chedli Klibi, the Arab League Secretary General. Greetings.

President Saddam Husayn has instructed me to inform you that Iraq supports the state of Palestine's call for an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss and deal with the serious threats to which the pan-Arab security is currently exposed.

His excellency also instructed me to inform you that Iraq welcomes the proposal to convene the summit in Baghdad.

His excellency invites you to Baghdad as soon as possible to consult with you on arrangements pertaining to the convocation of the summit.

Please accept my regards.

Klibi Arrives for Talks

JN0205152590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad today on a visit to Iraq during which he will hold talks with officials on arrangements for the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit. Klibi was welcomed at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Arafat, Saddam Discuss Summit

JN0105205990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine. The talks dealt with the results of Yasir 'Arafat's recent contacts with a large number of Arab leaders to discuss his call for an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad. The summit participants would tackle the threats to pan-Arab security and outline a joint Arab position to face the dangers of these threats, to reinforce the Arab stance in all fields, and to enable the Arab nation to protect its security and regain the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. So far, 15 Arab countries have communicated their official agreement on President 'Arafat's call to the Arab League. President 'Arafat declared that all the states he visited supported his call.

Iraq yesterday officially announced its support and President Saddam Husayn's acceptance as host of the summit in Baghdad, in a message that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League delivered the message yesterday.

The talks also dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian intifadah and the escalation in Israeli crimes against the Palestinian Arab people, particularly against the Islamic and Christian holy places in the occupied territory and the recent massacres perpetrated by the Israeli forces against the Arab citizens in Gaza.

Presidents Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat reiterated their strong and absolute support for the heroic Palestinian people and the just cause of our Arab people in the occupied territory. They also stressed the need to adopt urgent steps on Arab and international levels to face the situation.

The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister.

'Aziz, Kilibi Discuss Arrangements

JN0205153490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

During the meeting, they discussed arrangements for holding an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss and tackle the serious threats posed to pan-Arab security.

The head of the Arab Department at the Ministry attended the meeting.

'Arafat, Aziz Discuss Summit

JN0105192990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Baghdad this morning. During the meeting, they discussed the ongoing preparations to convene the Arab summit and issues related to the summit. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the State of Palestine to sisterly Iraq, and the chief of the Arab Desk at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar arrived in Baghdad from Tripoli early this morning on an official visit of several days to sisterly Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH Welcomes Summit

JN0305085090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—The fact that Iraq welcomes its brothers and the convening of the Arab summit on its territory emphasizes yet again that Iraq and all its capabilities are at the service of the Arab nation and its basic pan-Arab interests, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said.

In an article today entitled "Baghdad and the Extraordinary Arab Summit," the paper says the two prominent topics on the agenda of the summit are the imperialist and Zionist threats against Iraq and the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

The paper stresses that Iraq has always called for bolstering pan-Arab ties and setting firm bases for inter-Arab relations.

The paper says Iraq's position toward issues pertaining to pan-Arab security and Arab crucial interests has become clear. Iraq by no means allows anyone to step on the toes of the Arabs, and it supports every Arab against foreign aggression, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: It has become evident that support for Iraq is support for the Arab identity, and that standing in the same trench with Iraq is the measure of belief in genuine pan-Arab approach. It adds: The situation no longer allows one to maneuver or stand in the middle of the road. One either stands with the nation or in the trench of its enemies.

The paper adds: This fact disturbed the Zionist circles, and was a cause for their hatred, and that is why the British-American orchestrated campaign led by the Zionist maestro against Iraq was launched. The campaign even intensified when the Arabs declared support for Iraq because it has the right, and because it has grown to be the symbol of the comprehensive Arab upsurge.

Feeling this Arab enthusiasm for holding an extraordinary Arab summit, the paper says, Iraq welcomes the hosting of this summit so it can constitute the base from which the Arab nation proceeds toward its humanitarian role and toward Arab solidarity that achieves a qualitative leap in favor of the Arabs in their struggle against the Zionists.

The paper concludes: Iraq's call stems from its firm belief that the nation possesses all trappings of power and is able to move to the position where it can threaten the interests of the enemies, rather than always receiving their threats.

Klibi Meets With Saddam

JN0205190490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi this evening. During the meeting, they discussed the date, agenda, arrangements, and preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Baghdad this month.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Baghdad 'Does Not At All' Trust Hafiz al-Asad

JN0105070290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Apr 90

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said at a news conference in Baghdad today that Iraq does not at all trust Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. In a fresh attack on Syria, the Iraqi minister said Iraq rejects any cooperation with the Syrian regime.

Official Comments on Nuclear Weapons, Israel

JN0205195990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Geneva, 2 May (INA)—Iraq has urged the international community to take practical measures under the auspices of the United Nations toward declaring the Middle East region an area free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Iraq said this must be implemented with effective international supervision.

This came in a speech delivered in Geneva today by 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Kital, Iraqi ambassador to Austria and head of the Iraqi delegation to the third session of the preparatory committee for the fourth review conference of signatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NNT].

The head of the Iraqi delegation also called on the international community to work to make all Middle Eastern countries, especially "Israel" sign the NNT and place their nuclear installations under International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] supervision.

'Abd-al-Rahim al-Kital stressed that practical and rapid measures must be taken by countries possessing nuclear weapons to spare the world the dangers of a nuclear holocaust, through the signing of a new treaty providing for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. He added that the nuclear powers that are signatories to the NNT must provide effective guarantees to protect the security of countries that do not have nuclear weapons [words indistinct]. Guarantees must be given to these countries to ensure that countries without nuclear weapons are not made the target of nuclear attack and that they will not be threatened with nuclear attack by any party. In this context, he pointed out that the gravest danger in the Middle East comes from the constant threat posed by "Israeli" nuclear weapons.

'Abd-al-Rahim al-Kital emphasized the need to give countries that do not possess nuclear weapons the widest possible access to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. He added that demonstrating cooperation and goodwill in resolving differences in this area is the proper way to bolster the NNT and to strengthen compliance with its provisions.

Al-Kital went on to say that bolstering the NNT and increasing the number of signatories cannot be achieved by media campaigns, but by the adoption of tangible and practical measures on the part of signatories to the NNT.

Al-Kital reaffirmed Iraq's efforts to support any measure to strengthen the NNT and to apply it on a universal basis that would reflect the commitment by all world states not to seek to acquire nuclear weapons.

The head of the Iraqi delegation recalled the pledge freely made by Iraq not to seek to acquire nuclear weapons when it signed the NNT in 1970. He added that Iraq reaffirmed this commitment on several occasions, most recently when His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said on 2 April that Iraq neither needs nuclear weapons nor seeks to acquire them.

The head of the Iraqi delegation referred to the agreement that Iraq signed with the IAEA in 1972—the agreement according to which a host of guarantees was given to the IAEA by all Iraqi nuclear installations.

Al-Kital added: Since then, the IAEA has actually been consistently conducting its relevant inspections in Iraq. He noted that the latest IAEA inspection was conducted during the period 7-12 April 1990. He said that this recent inspection included a visit to the site of the Tammuz reactor, which was the target of an Israeli air raid in 1981. He added that through 18 years of supervision and inspection, the IAEA has not documented a single Iraqi violation.

Saddam Ready To 'Forget' Differences With Syria

JN0205150690 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 May 90 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] Amman, Baghdad (AL-BAYAN and news agencies)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has said that the leadership of the ruling Ba'th Party in Baghdad has authorized him to deal with Syria to build a strong Arab solidarity, contrary to the policy and ideology of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, which rejects cooperation with the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria.

President Saddam Husayn told a delegation of Jordanian figures he received in Baghdad recently that he is ready to forget differences with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and to build strong relations between Baghdad and Damascus to confront the Zionist ambitions and to work to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This also includes the revival of the eastern front which comprises Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO forces.

In his remarks to the Jordanian delegation, President Saddam Husayn added that Iraq, stemming from its pan-Arab policy, has pledged to confront any aggression against the Arab nation. He said that the Iraqi forces have indeed received orders to confront any Israeli aggression against any Arab country and to respond to it violently and strongly. [passage omitted]

Saddam Grants Pardons to Armed Forces Deserters

JN2604143390 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn granted pardon to deserters from the Armed Forces in and out of Iraq.

The pardon issued today would be effective for one month for deserters inside Iraq while deserters living outside Iraq would have two months to turn themselves in.

Conference Means To Stop Undermining of Country

JN0205102790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The activities of the popular Arab conference in solidarity with Iraq will begin on 7 May. The conference will last three days.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and official in charge of the Regional Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, chaired a meeting today of the higher committee of the conference to follow up the completion of the final steps to hold the conference and to guarantee its success.

The objective of the popular Arab conference in solidarity with Iraq, in which more than 2,000 Arab figures representing parties, trade unions, and popular organizations will participate, as well as intellectuals and social and historic figures, is to abort the premeditated onslaught being launched by Zionist-U.S.-British circles to undermine great Iraq. [passage omitted]

U.S.-Iran Rapprochement Said 'Premeditated Plan'

JN0205111390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that contacts and bargains between Tehran and Washington—and whatever else is taking place between them—are not far from the malicious imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial scheme against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In an article entitled "The Mullahs and the Arch-Satan," the paper says: It was not a coincidence that American-Iranian contacts and the bargains to release the hostages corresponded with the frenzied political and media campaigns against Iraq. They emerged according to a calculated and premeditated plan.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the normalization of relations called for by Iranian President Rafsanjani is a pressing aim for both of them [Iran and the United States] at present and expresses the political will of each.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the two sides are very enthusiastic and anxious to normalize their relations since each has, of course, its own short- and long-term calculations and aims in this regard.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We say this not only because Iranian President Rafsanjani was the one who called for direct talks to normalize relations with the United States or because Khamene'i, the guardian, termed Rafsanjani's call a brave decision, but also because the two sides are enthusiastic and in a hurry for this normalization. Once again we say that normalizing relations between the mullahs and the arch-Satan is very close, and the release of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon is a down payment for this normalization.

Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting in Geneva

JN0105091790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi left Baghdad today for Geneva as head of a delegation to attend the extraordinary meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee due to be held there tomorrow, Wednesday [2 May]. [passage omitted]

Turkish Minister Arrives for Joint Committee Meetings

JN0305074090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Mr. Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of state and head of the Turkish side in the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee for economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation, arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of the 10th session of the committee, scheduled to begin in Baghdad Friday.

The Turkish minister told INA that friendly relations between Iraq and Turkey are firm. He expressed hope that the next phase will witness new prospects for further cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

He said the meetings of the Iraqi-Turkish joint committee will discuss issues of cooperation between the two countries in the industrial, commerical, technical, and oil fields and ways of promoting them to serve the interests of the two neighboring peoples. He pointed out that an agreement on joint ventures will be signed.

U.S. Criticized for Threats To Cut WHO Shares

JN3004112890 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has derided trumped-up lies and claims invented by the United States on human rights.

Commenting on the U.S. State Department recent announcement that the United States would cut its shares in World Health Organization [WHO] if it accepts the PLO as a member, the paper said that the American law which calls for cutting shares in any organizations affiliate of the United Nations that grants full membership to the PLO was an old law aimed at extorting the UN organizations and influencing their resolutions.

The daily added that the U.S. State Department's announcement falls within the course of a chain of inequitable American decisions against the Palestinian cause the last of which was the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives announcement on supporting the recent decision recognizing al-Quds [Jerusalem] as the capital of the Zionist entity.

The paper stressed that in its recent decision, the United States reaffirmed its aggressive policy against the Arab nation and its central cause.

Ramadan Receives Hungarian Ambassador Varga

JN0205190990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received a written message today from

Miklos Nemeth, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, dealing with bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad, Tamas Varga, conveyed the message to Ramadan when the latter met with him today.

Polish Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

JN0205083090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Polish Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Marcin Swiecicki arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation on a three-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Polish minister will hold talks with the Iraqi officials on means of promoting cooperation between the two countries in the economic, trade, and financial fields.

Ramadan Receives Minister

JN0205155690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received today Marcin Swiecicki, Polish minister of foreign economic cooperation.

During the meeting, the first deputy prime minister said that bilateral ties will see further expansion and diversification in areas of mutual cooperation. He added that this expansion and diversification will reflect the reconstruction and development efforts in Iraq.

The Polish minister expressed his country's satisfaction with the the development of relations with Iraq. He also voiced his country's eagerness to expand and develop these relations further in every field in the future. He paid tribute to development in Iraq—development that has put Iraq in a prominent position on the Arab and international scenes.

Official Talks Begin

JN0205161790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the Polish Republic began at the Ministry of Finance today. The talks will continue for three days.

The talks, which were led by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih on the Iraqi side, and by Polish Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Marcin Swiecicki on the Polish side, focused on trade and economic and financial cooperation.

The Iraqi side to the talks comprised representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization, the Central Bank of Iraq, the al-Rafidayn Bank, and the al-Rashid Bank. The Polish side to the talks comprised financial experts and advisers.

Meeting With Planning Minister

JN0205184900 Baghdad INA in English 1635 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May 2 (INA)—Minister of Planning Samal Majid Faraj met here today Polish Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Marcin Swiecicki.

During the meeting, both ministers discussed bilateral economic and technical cooperation as well as the contribution of Polish companies to carrying out projects in Iraq.

The talks also concerned the preparation for the Iraqi-Polish committee's new session due to be held in Warsaw in October.

Attack on Iraq 'Difficult Option' for Israel

JN2904111390 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—A local daily has affirmed that the Zionist entity realizes that any aggression on Iraq or any other Arab will be the most difficult option it faces since its establishment as a settling scheme in the Arab region.

Carrying an article here today, AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper added that the major goals of the ongoing British, American and Zionist campaign were to put an end to Iraq's growing military and economic abilities.

It went on saying that the current trilateral drive was aimed at blocking Iraq's abilities from developing into a strategic deterrent to the Zionist entity and then showing impossibility of the Arab efforts to achieve a real strategic balance with the Zionist entity.

The paper pointed out that the trio was aware that attaining that balance represented, in the light of geographic, economic and human factors of the two parties of the conflict, a serious threat to the Zionist entity.

The present campaign is aiming to minimize political influence Iraq won after emerging victorious from its defensive war with Iran and to affect its political and economic choices, AL-JUMHURIYAH concluded.

U.S. Criticized for 'Courtship' With Iran

JN2904093490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has said that the deals and contacts between the United States and Britain on the one hand, and the Iranian and Syrian regimes on the other, are not mere coincidence, but are synchronized with the blatant U.S. and British media campaigns targeted against Iraq.

In its commentary today, entitled "Prosperous Trade" AL-THAWRAH says: It is not a new revelation to say that one of the aims of the political and media campaign against Iraq is to cover up U.S.-Iranian contacts, and to distract attention from the new deal between them, despite the fact that their deal is not the first of its kind.

The paper asks: Can it be mere coincidence that this open U.S.-Iranian courtship and this cheap U.S.-British intimacy come at the same time as the hostile statements and rabid threats against Iraq?

The paper adds: The clear paradox here, however, is that the United States and Britain, who are praising Iran's efforts and endeavors to release the hostages, know that Iran is the one who ordered the kidnapping and holding of hostages in the first place benefit politically, financially, and in other ways. Can what the United States is doing not be considered as rewarding terrorists for their terrorism?

AL-THAWRAH continues: As for Damascus, no one [word indistinct] its praise of the positive steps the U.S. Administration has taken since President Bush's assumption of power without explaining the content, date, and place of these steps.

The paper concludes: These parties have gained their objective in the hostage "bazaar" and have found in the release of these hostages a valuable opportunity to renew and rearrange their relations, and to coordinate and unify their moves. These all boil down to one aim; that is, to plot against the Arab nation and its vital issues, as they have always done.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 2 May

JN0205103490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran.

He was seen off at the airport by his assistant on the Iraqi side, the UN representative in Baghdad, and officers of the UN observers coordination committee.

Arens Says Shamir Peace Plan 'Must Be Advanced'

TA0105150390 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 May 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] We now switch to our Jerusalem studio to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Good evening.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shilon] Should I have said, still foreign minister?

[Arens] At this stage I am foreign minister.

[Shilon] But what I am asking is whether you are preparing for your possible departure from the Foreign Ministry in the coming days because of a change in the composition of the Cabinet.

[Arens] You know that it is Likud tradition for the prime minister to decide on the people who will compose his government, at least as far as the Likud members are concerned. He will decide.

[Shilon] I understand you will accept any decision he makes?

[Arens] That is correct.

[Shilon] We will later return to the issue of the coalition negotiations, but first let us deal with the answer to Baker and our political situation as a result of our negative response. You have received the reports from the United States about the growing criticism. There are those who say that the U.S. criticism has been unprecedented for dozens of years. Does that not worry you?

[Arens] That should certainly worry me and should be of concern to us all. It does worry me, but I believe the United States does not have a full understanding of all the processes we are now undergoing—the dismantling of the government and the attempts to set up another one—and no matter how many times we explain the problem we will not succeed in making them understand.

[Shilon] I think that some of us find it hard to understand.

[Arens] That is true, so how can we explain it to them? I believe that some of the things being said there derive from a misunderstanding of the difficult and complex processes we are now undergoing.

[Shilon] With your permission I will return to those complex processes as seen from your viewpoint as a politician and not only as foreign minister. Let us, however, concentrate on the diplomatic front for the time being. There is a growing impression that if the government is formed according to current trends not only will we say no to Baker but also to the political plan this government, under Yitzhaq Shamir, initiated and promoted. I understand that you were among those who supported saying yes to Baker. How does that conform with our international situation, the political initiative, and advancing the peace process?

[Arens] I do not agree with your evaluation. The peace initiative is the initiative of Prime Minister Shamir and he has repeated many times, even in recent days, that any government he heads will continue to promote the initiative which was approved in May 1989 by the Government of Israel. There is no withdrawal on that issue.

[Shilon] Mr. Arens, I would like to remind you that it is clear that Minister Sharon [title as heard], who strives to abrogate the plan, will be a very senior minister in the government to be set up by the Likud. No less important is that it will have members like Rehav'am Ze'evi and perhaps Ge'ula Kohen. How can that be compatible with the continuation of the political plan?

[Arens] You will find that the basic guidelines of the government when it is set up will reiterate that the peace plan of May 1989 must be advanced.

[Shilon] Will it, in fact, be promoted or is that something referring to some unspecified time in the future?

[Arens] It will also be promoted.

[Shilon] How?

[Arens] By our efforts. I hope we will receive positive answers from our potential partners. You know that the peace initiative contains four points, not just a single point.

[Shilon] Yes, but the main point is elections.

[Arens] No, no. I believe—and whoever forgets that was reminded by Saddam Husayn only two weeks ago—that the Israel-Arab conflict is first and foremost a conflict between Israel and the Arab countries, such as Iraq, Syria, and Libya. At the same time, we must try to reach normalization with those countries. Whether we can depends first and foremost on them.

[Shilon] But Mr. Arens, all of Israel's latest political moves—actually it is more accurate to say the political moves Israel is not taking by saying no to Baker—are they not like dancing a tango solo? We have no partners to what we are currently trying to promote.

[Arens] If Syria, Jordan, or Iraq do not wish to be partners and do not want peace with Israel then there will be no peace...

[Shilon, interrupting] But first we have to make peace with the Palestinians before doing so with Syria.

[Arens] I will reach the Palestinian issue in a minute. I believe, however, that what is obvious now, if it was not before Saddam Husayn's remarks, is that the Palestinian aspect of the Israeli-Arab conflict is only one aspect and not the most important. On the other aspects, well, as long the Arab countries or their rulers do not want to make peace with Israel there will not be peace, but it is important to recall that it is their fault and not due to a lack of desire on our part to stretch out our hand and begin peace negotiations.

[Shilon] Nevertheless, let us return to the Palestinian issue. Why do you not want to go to Cairo and meet there with Palestinians under Egyptian or non-Egyptian auspices?

[Arens] I would like to remind you what the Israeli peace initiative says about the Palestinians; it is important and far-reaching. There are those who oppose the fact that we are prepared to hold free elections for the Arab Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We stand firm in our readiness to do that and to conduct negotiations with whomever is elected. That is the main issue in the fourth point of Israel's peace initiative. We have not back away from that point even one iota.

[Shilon] You did not answer the question. Why do you oppose going to Cairo to confer there with the Palestinians? The Americans are offering us their help, the Egyptians are offering aid, we say: No.

[Arens] I believe that you also know the answer to that question. There has been an attempt to bring about, in Cairo, negotiations between Israel and the PLO, not on the elections issue, but on a Palestinian state, the right of return, and everything else that is on the PLO's agenda. The Government of Israel, both the previous one and the one to be set up, does not agree to that. [passage omitted]

Shamir Says U.S. Not Pressuring on Peace

TA0205164390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the United States has not been exerting any pressure whatsoever on Israel concerning the peace initiative. Shamir said that the United States will not impose any economic sanctions whatsoever on Israel since that is not how the United States conducts itself in its dealings with its allies. Yitzhaq Shamir went on to say that he is now concentrating all his efforts on the establishment of a narrow-based government, and noted that in his opinion such a government would not be an obstacle to the peace initiative. The prime minister was speaking at a reception for Israeli Arab dignitaries in Nazareth today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Prime Minister Shamir stated that all the newspaper headlines about U.S. pressure on Israel concerning the peace initiative were merely the consequence of an erroneous translation from English into Hebrew of Secretary of State Baker's remarks.

[Shamir] He did not say that the U.S. Government would exert pressure. He used a particular American idiom, to the effect that they would push the peace process forward. And, I am sure that is what they will do.

[Hecht] In the gap between a U.S. push and pressure the prime minister sees no reason for concern such as that expressed by Foreign Minister Arens this week.

[Shamir] Arens did not tell me about his concerns. I usually do not worry because that is of no use.

[Hecht] Shamir stated that the United States would not impose any economic sanctions whatsoever on Israel.

[Shamir] The United States does not use sanctions and pressures against its friends, and Israel is one of its best and most loyal friends.

[Hecht] The prime minister was asked whether after all the abridgments and additions the response to Secretary Baker's five-point plan would be yes or no.

[Shamir] We in the Cabinet voted in favor of the five points, which include our conditions and assumptions. I regard those five points, along with our assumptions, as one whole.

[Hecht] Mr. Shamir does not think that a narrow-based government that would include Tehiya and Moledet would be an obstacle to the peace initiative.

[Shamir] I hope the government we will form will be a stable government with a stable majority, which will definitely promote peace in this country and in the region at large.

[Hecht] At this point, the prime minister said, I am devoting my efforts to establishing a narrow government. But, as he put it, one should not despair of the possibility of forming a unity government.

[Shamir] I suppose the time will come for it, and you know I am a great advocate of the unity government doctrine.

[Hecht] As for the release of hostages and a prisoner exchange, Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel has not yet received any request from the United States or any other element to release prisoners as part of some deal. Such a request may definitely be forthcoming, Shamir said, since we have a clear interest in having our prisoners and missing soldiers released. [passage omitted]

U.S. Pressure Leading to 'Destruction' of Peace Process

TA0205100490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "State Department Naivete"]

[Text] The late American labour leader George Meany, a consummate politician, once asked a senator whose re-election he favoured: "What would you prefer, that I came out for you or against you?" Unfortunately, there are officials in the U.S. State Department who have apparently not reached this degree of sophistication. Last month they seemed determined to help replace Prime Minister Shamir by making no secret of their preference for his opponent. Reporting on this, columnists Evans and Novak, known for their good connections in the Administration, wrote: "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's pleas for the United States not to pressure him on Palestine brought an opposite response: Sorry, but the U.S. position on Palestinian rights is a matter of principle. The imminent result of this principled stand is likely to be Shamir's replacement by a Labour government headed by Shim'on Peres and the immediate convening of Baker's long-stalled session with the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt.

Now that this prediction has been proven false, officials in the State Department are again dismayed and "perplexed" because Shamir has reiterated a known position: that he could not say "yes" to Mr. Baker's formula for including East Jerusalemites and deportees in a proposed Palestinian delegation. Shamir's attitude, lest the Administration has forgotten, was influenced by President Bush's statement equating the status of East Jerusalem with that of the "West Bank." Mr. Peres found Shamir's position sufficient reason to bring down the government and Mr. Shamir was willing to risk the premiership for it. Does the State Department seriously expect him to renege on it now?

Administration spokesmen and sources also keep threatening that the U.S. will withdraw from its role as mediator unless Shamir changes his mind. Neither the dignity of the U.S. nor its influence is enhanced by implying that its participation in the peace process is a favour to Israel. Instead of repeatedly accusing Mr. Shamir of sabotaging his own peace proposal, officials in the State Department should examine their own view of the plan, accepted in its entirety by the Administration last May. If they intend to convert it from a natural extension of Camp David into a Rogers Plan cum PLO participation, they will achieve not a more pliable Israel government, but the destruction of the process.

The present political reality is that the Likud is likely to play the dominant role in the next government, whether it is broadly- based or narrow. State Department officials who pounce on every predictable Shamir pronouncement while he is in the coalition- forming process, who tell Israel's friends in Congress that a Likud government would be a disaster and who propagate baseless rumours that the Likud intends to launch a massive settlement programme, are not helping the "moderate forces" in Israel, nor are they advancing the peace process.

NRP Allocates 1 Week To Seek Unity Government

TA0205180690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The NRP's [National Religious Party] bureau session has ended. The bureau empowered its negotiating team to examine the possibilities for the establishment of a unity government, one which will be founded on the 14 May 1989 peace plan, but which will be different from its predecessor in several matters. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar adds further details:

The NRP bureau decided a short while ago to give one week to the efforts to set up a broad unity government including the Alignment and the Likud. The resolution reads as follows: The negotiating team which will be appointed will take action toward forming a government under Yitzhaq Shamir. That government's basic guidelines will be identical to those of the outgoing government and will be grounded on the 14 May 1989 peace plan. The bureau will task the negotiating team to thoroughly examine, through consultations with the other parties, the possibility of calling early elections or establishing a national unity government that will differ from the outgoing unity government in that it will be able to function and will enjoy better internal working relations.

The bureau will meet in one week, which sets the time limit for the receipt of reports from the negotiating team. A discussion on the party's next moves will be held at that meeting. The coalition process must be completed before the termination of the 21 days allotted to Yitzhaq Shamir, stated the NRP bureau.

The interpretation given to this resolution by those who seek a narrow-based government is that this would be a unity government that would respond negatively to Baker. They, therefore, see only a slim chance that such a government will be formed. That is why they adopted the draft resolution without even voting on it.

Those who favor a unity government, and that camp is led by Minister Zvulun Hammer, believe that a negative reply to Baker is not involved in such a government, but neither is a positive answer.

The NRP bureau has given its negotiating team only one week to try to find out whether it is possible to establish a unity government.

Foreign Ministry 'Certain' USSR Will Protect Jews

TA0305060590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] Israel is certain that the Soviet Government will take all necessary steps in order to prevent attacks on Jews. This was stated by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem in response to reports that the anti-Semitic Pamyat organization has been threatening to attack Jews throughout the Soviet Union at the end of this week. [passage omitted]

More on Fadlallah Remarks on Hostages, U.S. Ties

NC2704163490 Paris AFP in English 1615 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 27 (AFP)—The spiritual guide of pro-Iranian Lebanese fundamentalists Friday criticized the United States for not exerting pressure on Israel to release a Shiite leader seized from southern Lebanon.

"America is ready to apply pressure on the entire world for the release of American and European hostages," Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said at the weekly Moslem prayers in the Shiite southern suburbs of Beirut.

"But these days, it is publicly declaring that it is not ready to exert pressure on Israel for the release of Shaykh ('Abd-al-Karim) 'Ubayd and other Lebanese and Palestinian detainees," he said.

"And yet, American officials had considered the seizure of Shaykh 'Ubayd to be an inhuman operation."

Israeli commandos last July abducted the pro-Iranian leader Shaykh 'Ubayd from his home in south Lebanon, triggering criticism from the United States.

Shaykh Fadlallah said Thursday he had "no objection" to the release of Western hostages in Lebanon, but he appealed for Arab prisoners held by Israel to be freed as well.

The remarks followed a call by the influential TEHRAN TIMES newspaper that a second U.S. hostage could be freed, following the release of Robert Polhill by his pro-Iranian captors last Sunday.

At Friday prayers, Shaykh Fadlallah also condemned what he called Washington's support for Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and U.S. silence on Israel's repression of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

"America considers that human rights concern only the Jew. But we wonder what is their position on the question of human rights of the Palestinians being killed every day in occupied Palestine?" he asked.

On a more conciliatory note, Shaykh Fadlallah spoke of a possible relationship with Washington.

"We do not have a complex on the establishment of relations with America, but on condition that America and European states respect our (Moslem) nation, our freedom and our political independence," he said.

Iranian Vice President 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani called Thursday for direct negotiations with Washington, stressing that such contacts could serve the interests of Teheran.

Reportage on Militia-Held Iranian Hostages

'Awn's TV Cited

NC3004082590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] General Michel 'Awn has emphasized that three of the four Iranians who were kidnapped by the so-called Lebanese Forces in 1982 are still alive and held by the kidnappers.

Gen. 'Awn's television has said that the so-called Lebanese Forces are holding the three Iranians in the al-Laqluq area and that the fourth was killed when he tried to escape.

Lebanese Forces Contacted

NC3004153890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1505 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Highly-placed Western diplomatic sources have disclosed that the United States recently contacted the Lebanese Forces command concerning the four Iranian diplomats who were kidnapped in East Beirut several years ago.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] correspondent in Beirut cited the same sources as saying that Washington had asked the Lebanese Forces command to explain the fate of the Iranian diplomats as soon as possible, as this would help secure the release of the U.S. and Western hostages held in Lebanon. The sources added that the Lebanese Forces have thus far not sent a specific answer concerning the Iranian diplomats or concerning the possibility of their release in East Beirut soon.

Ja'ja' Denies Holding Iranians

NC0205170290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After his news conference today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' replied to questions on various issues raised by the correspondents. He said that Syria is not giving any aid to General Michel 'Awn now but that some of Syria's allies might have helped him in the past.

He also rejected out of hand the opening of the illegal Golden Beach port, saying this would enable 'Awn to be supplied with military equipment, thus prolonging the crisis. He also stressed that the Lebanese Forces will adopt the military option only in the case of self-defense.

Dr. Ja'ja' asserted that the Lebanese Forces support any dialogue that might take place between Syria and Lebanese deputies. He also expressed support for the return of Dr. George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin to the government to help solve some of the issues. He thanked Patriarch Sfayr, Abbot Nu'man, and all those making goodwill efforts, stressing that he supports all moves that avoid violence.

Regarding reports that Iran is demanding the release of four Iranians detained by the Lebanese Forces, Dr. Ja'ja' asserted that there has been no Iranian with the Lebanese Forces since he assumed command. He added that Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces commander] alone knows about this issue and that therefore the Lebanese Forces should not be asked about this matter.

Ja'ja' Calls on 'Awn To Hand Over B'abda

NC0205164090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] The citizens cannot tolerate the situation any longer. They have had enough of slogans, recklessness, accusations, and counter accusations. Their only concern is a solution that will restore stability, peace, and confidence in the future. Because of all this, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' proposed a solution today which requires General Michel 'Awn to hand over B'abda Palace to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and al-Yarzah [the Defense Ministry] to General Emile Lahhud. He said that 'Awn can oppose anything he wants and take whatever stands he wants within the framework of the democratic political game. He asserted that 'Awn would be held responsible for the consequences of his rejection of this proposal.

Regarding a military and political solution, Dr. Ja'ja' said:

[Begin recording] First, concerning the military situation. We must try to save whatever is left of the Lebanese Army. This is why I am proposing that Gen. 'Awn should hand al-Yarzah over to Gen. Lahhud. If he does so, then Gen. Lahhud can use the troops in Kasrawan, Jubayl, Upper and Lower al-Matn, and other military units to begin at least to build an army from an existing nucleus. As soon as Gen. Lahhud takes over the military forces in the eastern area and as soon as the army resumes the role required of it, not the role of a militia supporting a particular person, then the military problem will be solved, as a start. Can anyone suggest any other solution for the military problem in the eastern area? We no longer trust Gen. 'Awn. Never. He betrays and stabs in the back. We no longer have any confidence in him. [passage omitted]

At the political level, you want to be against the al-Ta'if accord? Then oppose it. That is natural. Each one of us is free to adopt the political theory he believes in. What I do not understand is why you don't hand over B'abda Palace to President al-Hirawi and continue to oppose the al-Ta'if from here to eternity. You say that you are very popular, that the people are with you, and that you represent the people. Fine. If the people are with you and you represent them, then what are you afraid of? Hand B'abda over to President al-Hirawi. The regime of Bisharah al-Khuri [first president of Lebanon] fell after a one-day strike. Stage a five-day strike if necessary and you will bring Ilyas al-Hirawi down.

For several days now, you have been saying: Let them treat me as a militia. Fine. This proposal is great, General. You should have said it before because you have been acting as a militia. Military troops will be with you. Fine. You most certainly have money, everyone knows this and you do not deny it. The people are with you? Then leave B'abda Palace. Why do you cling to B'abda Palace and the Defense Ministry? Leave them, set up a center elsewhere, and continue your political action from there. [passage omitted]

If the people are with you, then this is what you should do. If the people are not with you, then you must leave. If Gen. 'Awn does not do this, then he must bear responsibility for everything that is happening in the country, everything that will happen every day, and all the consequences of the crisis. He will have to shoulder responsibility for every person who is killed, every person who is injured, every child who is thirsty. He must shoulder the responsibility for every citizen who is forced to leave his home and every building that is destroyed, because he is an obstacle to the return of normal political life to Lebanon. All that we are asking is that political life be allowed to return to its normal course, and that problems should no longer be tackled by military and violent means. Then we might reach an understanding or we might differ, but the political game will go back to normal. [end recording]

Dr. Ja'ja' dealt with the psychological condition of the citizens as a result of the low level to which the media have descended. He stressed that from now on the Lebanese Forces will constantly clarify everything to the public in order to spare it confusion. He asked the citizens not to believe everything that is said and to check the information they are given. [passage omitted]

Expresses Support for Lahhud

NC0305112190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has asserted that the Lebanese Army can be saved only if General Emile Lahhud takes over the army headquarters in al-Yarzah. This initial step should be followed by rebuilding a large Lebanese Army and disbanding the militias at an appropriate time.

In an interview with our radio today, Dr. Ja'ja' explained that Gen. 'Awn no longer has any legal foundation and hence can no longer speak in the name of legality.

Dr. Ja'ja' said one army must be rebuilt so that it can take over security tasks on all Lebanese territory. He noted that this army should rally under the command of Gen. Lahhud and that successive steps should follow to rebuild the Lebanese Army as an all-embracing national institution.

Al-Rasi Call on 'Awn, Ja'ja' To Withdraw

NC0305100090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi has called on General Michel 'Awn to step down and turn over responsibility to legitimacy and to turn the army command over to General Emile Lahhud. In a press interview, he also called on Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' to withdraw his militia to beyond Nahr al-Kalb. He also called for the withdrawal of all militias in West Beirut to the Khaldah area in order to facilitate the implementation of the security plan in West Beirut and its suburbs and then in greater Beirut.

Al-Rasi praised the role being played by the Arab tripartite committee and said that the committee envoy, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, is making energetic and sincere efforts.

AL-DIYAR Cited on U.S., Israeli Overflights

NC0305080290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] AL-DIYAR reports that military aircraft believed to be Israeli flew over Beirut and the mountain at 0102 today. Meanwhile, a source citing a Cypriot airport control tower said that U.S. aircraft were flying over east and west Lebanese shores, according to Al-DIYAR.

Israelis Break Sound Barrier

NC0305090390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the mountain at 1120 today while flying reconnaisance sorties.

'Awn Forces Fire on Civilian Boat, Repel Rescuers

NC0305112490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 May 90

[Statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff; date not given]

[Text] A private civilian boat belonging to Joseph Mandur came under direct fire from 'Awn's groups off the al-Dubayyah shore. The boat caught fire with the crew on board. The owner of the boat was trying to move it from the Yacht Club in al-Kaslik to Saint George Port in West Beirut. When a Lebanese Forces naval patrol tried to approach the boat to rescue its crew, it came under fire from an 'Awn group and was unable to carry out a rescue.

East Beirut Areas Under Fire From 'Awn 'Gunmen'

NC0205194290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] 'Awn gunmen continued their acts of aggression this evening against Lebanese Forces positions along all the newly established combat lines in East Beirut. Using machine guns, mortars, and rockets, 'Awn gunmen fired at the Galerie al-Ittihad, al-Jisr al-Wati, al-Nab'a, Olivetti, and Hotel Dieu areas. The latest act of aggression was reported at approximately 2207, when two mortar shells fell on al-Jisr al-Wati. They were preceded by bursts of machine gun and rocket fire from al-'Adliyah in the direction of the Hotel Dieu area and from the Museum to the Olivetti area.

Israeli, Militia Forces Besieging Town in South

NC0205193490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] People arriving from the occupied border strip have stated that Israeli occupation forces and their agent militia have been besieging the town of al-Tayyibah in the Marj 'Uyun district for the past three days. They added that the agent militiamen have repeatedly stormed the town and made arrests. They said that, up until last night, the militia had arrested 20 citizens, including a girl.

It is worth mentioning that the agent forces had set 29 April as a deadline for al-Tayyibah people to present 25 youths for conscription in agent Lahd's militia.

'Surprise' at Report on Sierra Leone Slave Trade

NC2904181490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Statement issued by Al-Hajj Qasim Hasan Kamarah, chairman of the Sierra Leone Sons Union in Lebanon—date not given, read by announcer]

[Text] Quoting the British INDEPENDENT, reports have recently been carried about trade in boys and servants between Sierre Leone and Lebanon. While expressing our surprise at these reports and emphasizing the fraternal relations between the peoples of Lebanon and Sierra Leone, we request all sons of the Sierra Leone community in Lebanon to contact the union's office in the first story of the Burj al-Akhdar building on Salim Salam Street to discuss the community's affairs and to organize its relations with the Lebanese authorities. In the meantime, we request all Lebanese who employ members of the community to report to the union on the conditions of their employees in order to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples and to refute any reports about such a deal. Those who do not comply will be held responsible.

Further Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to Damascus

Holds Closed Meeting With Al-Asad

JN0205115890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1240 today.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. He was accorded an official and popular reception at Damascus International Airport. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed him at the airport. [passage omitted]

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Eng. Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the Presidential Office for political affairs.

Closed Meeting Continues

JN0205171990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 2 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and President Husni Mubarak resumed their talks at 1830 in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace.

During the talks, the two presidents dealt with relations between Egypt and Syria in various fields and means of developing and strengthening them in line with the new situation and requirements of multi-sided cooperation.

The two presidents also reviewed the Arab situation in light of the dangers threatening the nation and its pan-Arab causes, the requirements for strengthening the Arab position in the face of hostile schemes, and the realization of effective Arab solidarity to enable the nation to defend its rights and land and to deflect conspiracies.

In their talks, the two presidents touched on the new international situation and related developments, and its impact on the region.

Holds News Conference

JN0305103290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1002 GMT 3 May 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] At a meeting with Western correspondents this morning, President Husni Mubarak described his visit to Damascus as historic and his relationship with President Hafiz al-Asad as one of strong friendship. He acknowledged, however, that his attempts to clear the Arab atmosphere still need further efforts. Mubarak said he still hopes to find a suitable way to convince the Syrians to participate in an Arab summit conference that will be held in Baghdad.

When the Egyptian president was asked if he were preparing for a meeting in Cairo between the Syrians and the Iraqis on any level, he said: We never planned for this. We are working, however, to settle the dispute between the two sides. I held a lengthy discussion on this with President al-Asad yesterday. However, there are still many points on which efforts need to be made, not only by Egypt, but also by the brothers in the entire region to bridge the gap between Syria and Iraq.

On the possibility of Yasir 'Arafat's visiting Damascus, Mubarak said that although President al-Asad does not have good relations with him, he would welcome 'Arafat if he were to come to Damascus.

Discusses Mideast Issues

NC0305103390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that he and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad do not disagree that a peaceful solution for the Middle East problem is the optimal one, provided that it is just and comprehensive.

Speaking to reporters in Damascus this morning, President Mubarak asserted that the resumption of Egyptian-Syrian relations is both important and vital for resolving the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak is expected to leave Damascus for home today at the end of his visit to Syria after being invited by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar', 'Abd-al-Majid Confer

JN0205152190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish, as well as Muhammad al-Diwani, director of the Egyptian foreign minister's office. Talks centered on relations between the two fraternal countries and developments in the region.

Visit 'Important' for Solidarity

JN0205075290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Damascus-Cairo Meeting and the Need To Put an End to Israeli Recklessness," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Heading the agenda of the al-Asad-Mubarak talks in Damascus is the problem of how to confront the Zionist danger now posing a threat to the entire Arab nation's future and existence. President Mubarak's visit in itself comes at a very crucial time when conspiracies from all directions are escalating against our Arab homeland, and when the nation's resources are still scattered and not being employed in the proper pan-Arab direction. From this premise, we can say and stress that this visit is important for several reasons, the most important being that the Damascus-Cairo meeting has always been for the sake of Arabs' rights and issues, and for the elimination of injustice.

For these reasons Arab and international news media are interested in this visit, because its results will greatly contribute to laying a strong foundation for a sound Arab position capable of confronting and deterring all the nation's enemies.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Damascus-Cairo meeting will mark the correct start for formulating an Arab position on developments in our region and the changes in the international arena.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: The Damascus-Cairo meeting will secure whatever is needed to ensure an Arab stand capable of confronting the schemes of all the nation's enemies, particularly Israel's policy of aggression and expansion.

On the same subject, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Unity between Syria and Egypt has always been in the interest of the Arab nation's confrontation of the enemies and those who covet its territories, and the estrangement between Syria and Egypt has always disturbed the balance of the Arab situation and its ability to confront external challenges. At a time when threats and challenges are escalating and require a responsible and unified Arab position, and when leader al-Asad is calling on Arabs to take a responsible stand and reexamine their position on threats to the Arab future, President Mubarak's visit constitutes an important step toward achieving Arab solidarity, especially as Israel has exploited international changes in the interest of its expansionist and aggressive plans.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says: President al-Asad will undoubtedly brief President Mubarak on his successful talks in the Soviet Union. It is known that President Mubarak will leave for Moscow in the middle of this month. What we want to stress is that all Arabs need to coordinate and unify their efforts more than at any time in the past. Solidarity and a unified and effective position is the only way to confront threats to their homelands.

Commentary Praises Meeting

JN0205144990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Syrian Arab Republic and his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad is of great importance in view of the many challenges now facing the Arab nation. Foremost among these challenges is the Zionist danger, which threatens both the present and future of the Arabs, particularly as Israel is working to use the changes on the international scene to further its schemes of aggression and expansion while the Arab nation's resources are dispersed and are not being employed in the confrontation between the Arabs and Israel.

The close ties and traditional relations that bind Syria and Egypt are great. Any reading of the history of these relations clearly shows that whenever Syria and Egypt were in accord, the Arab nation's struggle and just causes benefited. On the other hand, whenever Syria and Egypt moved away from each other, it had a negative effect on the whole Arab situation.

The importance, therefore, of the current meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak stems from this point. The positive results of their talks in Damascus will undoubtedly go toward building solidarity into the Arab struggle and a united Arab position to assume pan-Arab responsibilities to confront the dangers surrounding the Arab nation.

At this stage, the Arabs require effective solidarity and coordination at every level, more than ever before, because the two fraternal countries' responsibilities require initiatives to create the appropriate climate for crystallizing a united, capable, and effective Arab policy so that joint Arab action can take its course. This course not only confronts the Zionist threat, but also ensures the success and victory of the just Arab cause to guarantee the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and restore the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people to their land and country.

Syria has worked and is still working to strengthen the Arab positions and achieve Arab solidarity, because they have proven to be the most effective and useful weapons and methods to maintain and protect Arab rights. Syria has exerted every effort to achieve this goal because, as always, it places the higher interests of the Arab nation above all other considerations. When leader al-Asad called on the Arabs to take a responsible stand and review their past in order to overcome the dangers threatening the Arab nation, he did so only because he realized that the Arab nation now needs to cooperate, join forces, and settle its differences. The Arab nation has the potential and ability to strengthen and deepen its solidarity, provide everything needed to confront the Zionist danger, and turn international changes to its advantage. The Arabs must bear in mind, however, the fact that the danger threatens all of them and that pan-Arab responsibility requires everyone to challenge this danger by adopting a united Arab position, a pan-Arab will, and a comprehensive view of the present and future. This is what Syria has sought and will always seek to achieve through sincere and concerted action.

Therefore, President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus, his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, the Arab and international interest in this visit, and the expected results all contribute toward securing a sound Arab position. In addition to reconciliation and the deepening of relations that already exist between the two countries, this constitutes an important step in building Arab solidarity and a united Arab position that the Arab masses will view with great confidence and optimism. This is especially true now that Arab solidarity is necessary in overcoming the current and future challenges imposed by events in the region and the world, and to thwart the schemes and conspiracies to trap the Arab nation.

Relations With Egypt Hailed

JN0305063290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH discusses the meeting between the two Arab presidents, Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, and the historic and future significance of the meeting. The paper stresses that whenever Syria and Egypt meet, the meeting benefits all Arabs. It is true to say that the reconciliation of Egypt and Syria brings great benefits to the Arab nation and promises great events and qualitative transformations in the entire Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: Within this framework, the Damascus-Cairo meeting takes on a special significance: In this particular point lies the rectification of the Arab situation, and on this basis the Arab relations can be built away from narrow regional interests and sick personal purposes.

AL-BA'TH continues: The current meeting of the two Arab presidents on Arab Syrian soil—the soil of steadfastness, heroism, and confrontation—bodes well for the pan-Arab cause. It is a clear reflection of a comprehensive popular Arab demand for uniting the Arab nation in terms of words, actions, and capabilities with a view to raising the Arab situation to the level of the challenges imposed by major events and sweeping changes, and in a manner compatible with the extent of present and future threats to Arabs.

In a commentary entitled "The Pan-Arab Meeting," AL-THAWRAH stresses that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus and his fraternal meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad drew the attention of our people and the Arab nation. The paper says: Perhaps the joy with which the Arab masses received the return of the Syrian-Egyptian relations and President Mubarak's visit to Damascus is the sincerest expression of the masses' eagerness for solidarity and unity. It concludes: Arab solidarity has been a militant pan-Arab condition which Syria has painstakingly endeavored to achieve and strengthen, not only because it reflects the will of the Arab masses, but also because it is a weapon for confrontation and an action for existence. These are Syria's principles, pan-Arab constants, and militant calculations. In this spirit, the people of Egypt and Syria have embraced, and with this outlook, Syria today receives President Mubarak.

In the "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN discusses the same subject, stressing that cooperation and solidarity between Syria and Egypt are the basis and provide a true opening for an effective Arab solidarity. Solidarity is the strong basis on which the Arab nation can consolidate its hopes in the future. It is the response to the call of land and history to face the plots of the enemy. President al-Asad has sounded the alarm about the most dangerous conspiracy, aimed at evacuating the Arab land from its owners to settle more Jewish immigrants in their places—a new Zionist aggression that enjoys full and premeditated support from the U.S. Administration. This causes us to view with hope and confidence the meeting of Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak to deal with the developments and raise the Arab nation to a responsible position that faces challenges and triumphs over them.

Soviet Envoy on Commitment to Nation's Security

JN0105181690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] In Damascus today, the Soviet ambassador held a news conference which lasted more than two hours during which he spoke about the results of President al-Asad's recent visit to the Soviet Union. The ambassador said that Moscow is committed to Syria's security and that it will continue to supply it with the arms it needs.

Further on Zotov's Remarks

JN0105210890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 May 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Zotov has announced that the Arab-Israeli struggle and the accumulation of arms in the Middle East will enjoy top priority during the next Soviet-U.S. summit. He described the situation in the region as dramatic and indicated that there is an immense accumulation of very destructive weapons, adding that something must be done in this regard.

Zotov was speaking at a news conference he held to talk about the al-Asad-Gorbachev summit which recently took place in Moscow. He described the summit as very successful and constructive. He said the Soviet Union held a very constructive dialogue with the United States, stressing the need to benefit from all the available possibilities and lay an acceptable foundation for a settlement in the region. He praised the Arab positions but held Israel responsible for impeding peace efforts. He also held the United States responsible for its failure to deal with Israel firmly enough. Zotov drew a contrast between the stands of the present and previous U.S. Administrations, explaining the TASS report that the two presidents, al-Asad and Gorbachev, are of the view that the stand of the current administration is worse than that of its predecessor. He said: The previous administration had definite factors. Without going into details, we are of the view that such factors are so far nonexistent in the present administration.

The Soviet ambassador emphasized the strength and depth of the Syrian-Soviet relations, emphasizing that to Moscow these relations are a model of Third World country relations. He described Syria as a sincere, strong, and effective ally.

Zotov announced that his country is committed to modernizing the Syrian Armed Forces' defense capabilities because Syria has legitimate defense requirements. He said that the Soviet Union is responsive to these needs. He also emphasized Moscow's continuous commitment to Syria's security. He said that, during his meeting with Gorbachev, President al-Asad frankly affirmed that he was not trying to amass arms in Syria as an aim in itself, but, as a leader and Arab statesman, he feels a responsibility toward his people, toward Palestine, and toward the Arab world, and that he had to work so that justice might prevail in the Middle East.

In conclusion, Zotov said that Gorbachev understands this position perfectly, adding that Syria must have a strong defensive base so long as the principles of justice and the basic guarantees for all peoples in the region are not available.

Views Results of Moscow Meeting

JN0205104790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 2 May (SANA)—The Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Aleksandr Zotov, held a news conference at the Soviet Embassy last night and talked about the results of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union. A large number of newsmen, reporters, and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and international television networks attended the news conference. [passage omitted]

Asked about supplying Syria with advanced Soviet weapons, he said that the Soviet Union is working to avoid confrontation in any part of the world, and that some sides view this Soviet position as placing pressure on Syria. He said the Soviet Union feels that there are certain Syrian defense requirements, that it also feels responsible for meeting these needs, and that President Hafiz al-Asad, as a leader, feels responsible toward his people and at the same time is working to bring about justice in the Middle East.

Regarding Israel's rejection of the international resolutions and its refusal to abide by the international charters, the ambassador said: Israel's overall position is so clear that President Gorbachev and President al-Asad did not spend much time defining that position or the nature of Israel's policy.

In reply to a question on current U.S. efforts, he said: The current efforts being made by the Washington administration are an alternative to the Soviet plans, which enjoy worldwide support represented in calls for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. We were requested to study these proposals.

Asked if the issue of Syrian debts to the USSR were discussed, he said that the talks did not touch on this issue in particular, but centered on economic relations and ways of promoting them and solving related issues in the interest of both sides.

Regarding the modernization of Syria's defense sector and defining its main requirements, the ambassador said: Contacts have begun. First, agreement should be reached on what we can provide. The talks also dealt with the main elements of the issue.

In reply to a question on how to reconcile Jewish immigration and U.S. settlement efforts, the ambassador said: I am not trying to lessen the gravity of this point. However, positive U.S. statements were made to the effect that Israel should abandon its dream of establishing greater Israel. Regarding Jerusalem, I can say that our Syrian friends highly appreciate these positive statements. But regrettably, as a result of pressures from the Congress and other forces, the U.S. Administration has retreated from its position on a just peace.

Asked if the Palestinian intifadah was discussed by President Gorbachev and President al-Asad during the Moscow summit, he said: During the talks, the Middle East issue was discussed thoroughly, and the two presidents realize that the intifadah is one of the central events in the region. They also concluded that if Israel continues to block all paths to a peaceful and comprehensive settlement and if Washington does nothing, the Palestinian Arab intifadah will give up its peaceful nature. Talks also centered on the need to achieve more coordination among the Arabs, including the PLO. Gorbachev welcomed the tangible improvement in relations between Syria and the Arab countries.

Asked if the Lebanese problem was discussed during the summit talks, he said: The Lebanese problem was discussed, as well as support for the al-Ta'if agreement, the national accord, and the legitimate government in Lebanon. We also perceived an honest Syrian concern for Lebanon's interests in general.

Papers Comment on Importance of Moscow Visit

JN2804060590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Important Visit," the newspaper TISHRIN carries a commentary reviewing the development of Syrian-Soviet relations over the years. The paper says: The policies of the two countries on the issues of the age and their joint faith in the peoples' right to independence and self-determination have helped entrench these relations. The paper adds: Every visit paid by President Hafiz al-Asad to Moscow has had a positive effect on the relations between the two friendly countries. The paper notes that the current visit acquires its importance from the need for consultations and coordination over a just settlement to the Middle East crisis and the establishment of the rights of the Palestinian people in light of international changes.

TISHRIN says that expanding the horizons of Syrian-Soviet relations is a popular demand in both countries and the talks of Presidents al-Asad and Gorbachev must deal with means to reinforce these relations to serve as an example of close and equal relations on all levels. Syria and the Soviet Union are interested in these relations which will continue to progress. The results of the visit will once again affirm the vitality of the friendship between the two countries and its positive effects on efforts to reach a just solution for the volatile crisis in the region, for it has been proved that there will be neither peace nor stability in the world and the region without ending Israeli occupation and securing the Palestinian people's rights.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH deals with the great attention given to leader al-Asad's visit to Moscow, saying that political observers attach great importance to the outcome of the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Gorbachev and the ensuing coordination of stands in confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab nation and its fateful cause.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: As usual, leader al-Asad's every diplomatic activity in general, and each visit to Moscow in particular, seek further support for Arab rights and the provision of requirements of strength for the Arab position. This is in line with the aspirations of our people to reject liquidationist solutions and all forms of capitulation.

Commentary Affirms Strength of Soviet Relations

JN2804143390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The importance of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union and his talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev comes not only from the friendship and cooperation that bind Syria and the Soviet Union, but also from the current situation in the Middle East crisis, developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and rapid international changes. Syria has often reaffirmed the need to absorb and benefit from these changes through consolidating the size and effectiveness of the Arab role in the self-determination of this nation and its influence on events and changes in international relations.

Syria has sounded the warning, calling for a comprehensive Arab strategy and unity, effective Arab solidarity, and a solid Arab position, and at the same time, has asked the Arabs not to leave the door open for Israel alone to benefit from these international changes. Syria has also stressed the need to initiate a pioneering and cultural Arab role through Arab self-reliance and by preserving strong relations with the friendly Soviet Union, because it is the power that has supported the Arabs and their just causes and backed the Arabs against all imperialist and Zionist attempts to usurp and eliminate their rights by obliteration, liquidation, and the imposition of Israeli conditions and demands on the Arabs.

Imperialism and Zionism have continuously and repeatedly tried to disrupt Arab-Syrian-Soviet relations. They have also attempted to distort the Soviet Union's position of support for Arab causes and rights by attacking the pillars and foundations of the relations binding the Soviet Union to the Arabs, and to Syria in particular. This historic relationship is based on permanent friendship, trust, understanding, cooperation, and on the mutual interests of the Arab nation and the peoples of the Soviet Union.

Syria is always faithful to these relations and takes them very seriously. It makes every effort to support and expand them on every level. Syria can never deny its commitment to these stands, or evade the question of right and wrong whenever our major issues are at stake. President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed this in his important, comprehensive, and pan-Arab speech on the 27th anniversary of the 8 March Revolution when he said: The Soviet Union has stood by us, supported our just struggle, and provided us with basic support against aggression. This support will remain a vital part of the history of our relations, pushing them forward and not allowing them to stagnate. We cling to our friendship with the Soviet Union now as we did in the past, in fact, more than ever before.

In light of this, it is very clear that in order to maintain our positive relationship with the Soviet Union, we must protect it from attempts to question or distort it. Our response to such attempts to attack our friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union will only be to deepen and strengthen these ties and ensure they can successfully overcome any difficulties or obstacles that threaten their ability to withstand any test.

The Soviet Union supports the Arab cause. The Arabs can reinforce this support by consolidating the historic relationship between the Arab nation and the Soviet Union through honest dealings, positive dialogue, and comprehensive and deep discussion of the various issues that concern the peoples of the Arab nation and the Soviet Union. This will make an effective contribution toward regaining our usurped rights and occupied lands through peace, justice, and Arab dignity and destiny.

Imperialist and Western circles, while aiming their poison arrows at Arab-Soviet relations, hope and wish to see these relations unsettled and weakened to the advantage of the Zionist enemy. Thanks to strong Arab-Syrian-Soviet relations, however, the results and repercussions of these campaigns have been contained and controlled. Undoubtedly, the great Arab and international interest in President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow and his talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev reconfirm Syria's importance in deciding current events in this region and its major role as an active Arab power in both Arab and international affairs. This Arab power is employed in the service of Arab causes and their victory.

Syria, as its leader has said many times, is strong together with the Arabs, just as the Arabs are strong together with Syria. Any strength that Syria has in its local and international role is an additional asset for the Arabs in general, both locally and internationally.

Press Views Al-Asad Moscow Talks, Mideast Peace

JN2904100690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel Rejects Peace and Prepares for Aggression and Expansion," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed in his talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow that Israel's aggressive and expansionist drive has prevented the implementation of UN resolutions and has scuttled international peace initiatives. The paper also underlines leader al-Asad's statement that separate and partial solutions will never lead to a comprehensive and just peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Arabs must cast aside all minor differences for the sake of higher pan-Arab objectives and forge a unified Arab position against the historical archenemy of the Arab nation.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, through its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, has drawn attention to the dangers of current developments, particularly the dangers posed by Jewish immigration, which is viewed as the most serious encroachment on Arab rights. It is no exaggeration to say that the Arabs have numerous capabilities, not only to confront the enemies of the Arab nation but also to thwart all the conspiracies being plotted against this nation.

In its "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN publishes a commentary on the importance of Syrian-Soviet ties, the attention given by world media to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's Sovviet visit, and its impact on the overall regional situation. TISHRIN states that it has been a firm and constant Zionist policy to prevent any Soviet involvement in resolving the Middle East conflict. TISHRIN adds: Israel has consistently rejected all international efforts, whether by the USSR or the United Nations, simply because the USSR strongly supports Arab rights and international resolutions.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says that Syrian-Soviet ties will expand, noting that these ties are vital for the two countries and also for the future of peace and security in the region. The paper adds: These ties have become too strong and firm to be undermined. The USSR, moreover, carries a great responsibility in the region. In addition, it has a major role to play in achieving a just and durable peace in our region. It is impossible to achieve a just peace without effective Soviet participation.

Moscow Visit Refutes Enemies' 'Illusions'

JN2904134890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Leader al-Asad's visit to Moscow has been received with major interest by the Arab and international media. This stems from several reasons. What is probably one of the most prominent reasons is the failure of the enemies' hopes and illusions, which they have held for some time, about the possibility of a retreat in Syrian-Soviet relations in particular and Arab-Soviet relations in general following the recent developments in East European countries witnessed by the whole world. The visit refuted unequivocally all those hopes and illusions.

Those who follow Western commentary on this visit will notice that the commentators considered the visit to have given a fresh boost to relations between the two countries and deepened their joint view of the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the means to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to that conflict.

On the level of bilateral relations, the visit resulted in the two countries' joint endorsement of the idea that these relations must be preserved, bolstered, and improved for the benefit of the two sides and for the benefit of peace and security in the Middle East.

On the level of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the visit has proved that the two countries have identical positions. They both blame Israel's rulers for resisting international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. They also refer to the U.S. role, which obstructs a comprehensive settlement and the convening of an international conference.

During the talks, the Soviet president clearly asserted that the Soviet Union has not changed its fundamental position on the situation in the Middle East and the issue of peace, and that it will continue to work for the sake of that peace in cooperation with Syria and other parties concerned. Within this context, this Soviet confirmation carries the guarantee that the changes inside the Soviet

Union and Eastern Europe will not affect the Soviet position, which supports Arab rights and the realization of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights. To be more specific, this means that the Soviet Union will continue to adhere to its support of the Arabs in their quest to achieve their noble pan-Arab goal and regain their usurped rights.

Like earlier visits, leader al-Asad's visit to Moscow gives new momentum to both bilateral and Arab-Soviet relations, for the benefit of the Arab cause in general and for the benefit of the Syrian and Soviet peoples in particular.

Al-Asad's Visit to Moscow 'Big Political Event'

JN3004063090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reinforcing Confidence and Cooperation," TISHRIN says: In the current regional and world atmosphere, the changes in East Europe, and the Israeli attempts to exploit these changes and to affect Arab relations, particularly Syrian-Soviet relations, leader al-Asad came to Moscow to hold constructive and important talks with President Gorbachev. These talks were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere amid feelings of confidence and mutual respect.

TISHRIN asserts that the visit to Moscow by leader al-Asad has added new bricks to the building of new bridges of bilateral friendship, reinforced this friendship, and opened many horizons for their development.

The newspaper deals with the topics and issues discussed by the two leaders, noting that this visit represents a big political event, and deprived those trying to undermine Soviet-Syrian relations of the opportunity to achieve their goal. The visit was also an opportunity for President Gorbachev to assert the USSR's continuing support for the Arab struggle, the Arab liberation movement, and his condemnation of Israel's expansionist aggressive policy.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The visit has dispersed the clouds of deception and slander created by the Zionist media and the organs affiliated with them.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-BA'TH says: The 36 hours that leader al-Asad spent in Moscow were very significant. These historic hours, which included exceptional talks and an in-depth exchange of opinions, will have a substantial effect on the political developments in the Middle East and on the future of this important and sensitive region.

AL-BA'TH adds that leader al-Asad's meeting with President Gorbachev has affirmed that, despite the changes in the world, the principles of Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation have remained firm and these principles have neither changed nor wavered. These principles remain steadfast in all circumstances because they are built on common interests and on mutual respect and genuine solidarity.

AL-BA'TH touches on the topics discussed during the visit. It notes that leader al-Asad demonstrated his efforts, farsightedness, scientific and strategic view of issues and developments, and his complete acknowledgement—through a pan-Arab outlook—of the forces and effects that control events on our globe. He thus presented himself anew as an astute leader who carries the Arabs' concerns and brandishes the sword of justice in the face of their enemies.

'Sources' Cited on Al-Asad's Talks in Moscow

PM0105153990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 90 pp 1-2

[Excerpts] Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow, which he concluded yesterday, has raised a number of burning issues which attract the attention of local and international circles. It has also eliminated a number of disputed points. [passage omitted]

Soviet sources say that President al-Asad raised the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel and the dangers resulting from the Jewish exodus to the occupied territories. He proposed to President Gorbachev a number of solutions which have not yet been revealed, though the sources confirm they were accepted by Gorbachev, who expressed that fact by saying "the problem still stands and must be dealt with within the framework of the Arabs' rights, not just within the framework of human rights in general." He expressed his country's support for and solidarity with the Arab liberation cause. [passage omitted]

The Syrian and Soviet sides discussed a number of the issues concerning the Arab region, including Lebanon. Soviet sources say that the two presidents discussed a number of limited questions. Satisfaction was expressed at the positive development in Soviet-Iranian relations following President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union. The Soviet sources refused to elaborate on that phrasing, which can be interpreted in many ways.

Although cooperation in the military field was among the issues raised at the talks, it was also a major issue at bilateral talks held at the Defense Ministry between Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas and Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Dmitriy Yazov. [passage omitted]

Soviet sources say that the two sides agreed to continue cooperation in modernizing the Syrian Armed Forces. Syrian sources emphasized that after the conclusion of the official talks Marshal Yazov made a special visit to President al-Asad's residence at the hospitality center in the Lenin Hills, which undoubtedly dealt with the question of supplying Syria with modern weapons. [passage omitted]

The sources did not refer to the results of the talks held regarding economic cooperation, though AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that some obstacles emerged at that level due to the worsening of the debt issue, which has not yet been resolved. An official Soviet economic delegation headed by Mordvinov, deputy minister for foreign economic relations, will visit Damascus after the 1 May holiday to complete the talks on the issue. [passage omitted]

Soviet Support To Undermine U.S. Mideast Policy

JN0105090890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, "The U.S. Stand Hampers the Comprehensive Settlement," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: In light of Arab and international emphasis over the past few days on the extreme importance of leader President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the friendly USSR and the intensive talks he held with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his aides in the Soviet administration, it is worth noting that the most important element that contributed to the success of the visit and gave the Syrian-Soviet talks warmth and sincerity was their similar opinion that the U.S. position on the Middle East crisis obstructs the process of a comprehensive settlement.

Anyone who carefully examines the history of U.S. policy toward the Middle East crisis and the Arab-Zionist conflict will realize that this policy has escalated its support for the Israeli position politically, economically, and militarily at the same time that it has intensified pressure on the Arabs to make further concessions on their rights, which the whole world unanimously recognizes as legitimate Arab rights.

From this premise, leader al-Asad's profound view in analyzing the U.S. stand and linking it to the comprehensive imperialist view—which portrays to Western circles that the USSR's preoccupation with the process of restructuring its society provides an opportunity to pounce on the forces of liberation in the Arab homeland—has put this part of the talks on the right course. This will eventually lead to a situation in which the U.S. stand will founder on the rock of Soviet support for legitimate Arab rights.

U.S. Policy Remains 'Hostile' to Arab Causes

JN0105144190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The United States might mildly reproach Israel for its belligerence. Its secretary of state might be angry over Israeli criticism of his proposals on a settlement. Or U.S. President George Bush might be shocked by Israeli oppressive practices in the occupied Arab territories. However, the reproach, anger, and shock of the Americans has not led them to take a united and practical stand, either to force Israel to abandon its belligerence, oblige it to take the road of peace, or stop the oppression and terrorism it practices against the sons of the occupied territories.

Washington is very careful not to hurt Israel's feelings. When it comes to the Arabs, however, American feelings or sentiments go completely cold. No one is quicker than Washington to describe this or that Arab country as terrorist, without any justification or truth to it. However, Israel's monstrous daily terrorism inside and outside the occupied territories does not affect Washington's blindfolded eyes.

Ever since the establishment of Israel 42 years ago, the Arabs cannot remember a single fair American stand toward their struggle with this usurping entity. All U.S. stands supporting Israel militarily, financially, politically, diplomatically, and informationally have been the source from which Israel derived the elements of its existence and aggression, the justifications for its belligerence, and the cover for its expansion.

If we review what the Zionists have done during the past months of the Bush Administration, we find unlimited dangers and threats against the Arabs. These include the closing of U.S. borders to Soviet Jews to force them to travel to Israel, the financing of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives' decisions considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's announcement that Washington is determined to provide the Zionists with early warning systems and Patriot missiles specialized in intercepting and destroying missiles in the air, and finally the present U.S. efforts seeking to annul Resolution 3379 issued by the United Nation's General Assembly which considers Zionism a form of racism.

All this support for Israel and its implicit connotations encourage the Zionists to indulge in their aggressive and expansionist plans at a time when Washington itself realizes that the current trend inside Israel is not toward peace at all. In fact, there is a public realization inside the occupied territories, the Arab homeland, and the whole world that the government which Shamir has been entrusted to form will be more a government of war than one of peace, especially if we note that one of its prominant figures will be the infamous terrorist Ari'el Sharon who nominated himself to the position of defense minister and pledged to liquidate the intifadah as fast as possible. In addition, he criticized the leniency of his predecessor's unorganized style in dealing with the intifadah.

The current developments inside Israel, such as the trends toward greater extremism, expansion of settlements, oppression, and terrorism, bolts the doors to peace possibilities and opens them wide to possibilities of an explosive situation whose extent is difficult to predict.

The Arabs have warned the world, Washington in particular, of the dangers of what is happening, and the entire world realizes the repercussions of the increasing dangers due to the Israeli belligerence and arrogance. So, how else can one explain the continuation of the present U.S. Administration's support of Israel in all fields, other than from the point of view that the U.S. Administration is continuing its hostile policies toward the Arabs and their just causes?

Syrian-Soviet Oil Committee Meetings Begin

JN0205171990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1536 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 2 May (SANA)—Meetings of the Syrian-Soviet joint committee on oil began here today. The first working session was headed on the Syrian side by Engineer Dr. Nadir al-Nabulsi, assistant oil and mineral resources minister, and on the Soviet side by Mr. Kotov [name as received], chief of the Foreign Relations Administration at the Soviet Ministry of Gas Industry.

During the session, the two sides reviewed the scope of bilateral cooperation and the means of developing it in every field, especially in the areas of oil and gas in accordance with cooperation protocols signed between them.

Dr. Nabulsi said in a statement that the meetings were among those held periodically between the ministries of oil in the two countries to discuss supporting and developing oil production in Syria with the help of Soviet technical expertise. He added that, during the joint committee meetings, they will discuss the possibility of specialized Soviet institutions setting up oil projects in Syria.

The assistant oil and mineral resources minister said that in today's session they discussed the possibility that Soviet technicians would develop the gas fields recently discovered in Syria, train Syrian technical staff in the Soviet Union, develop the expertise of the Syrian Petroleum Company, and import equipment and spare parts needed to develop oil production.

Dr. Nadir al-Nabulsi announced in his statement that after the meetings, they would sign a cooperation protocol with the aim of developing the Syrian oil industry to ensure that objectives in increasing Syrian oil and gas production are met.

Polhill's Release Confirms Republic's Credibility

JN2904175690 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Apr 90 p 8

[From the "Behind the News" column: "Syria's Humanitarian Role," by 'Umar Jaftali]

[Text] Syrian Arab Television reported that U.S. hostage Robert Polhill had been released, and interviewed him. News agencies immediately carried the news report, which confirms Syria's credibility on the international, Arab, and regional levels; its humanitarian and constructive role in the region; and its major contribution to the release of hostages of various nationalities.

Syria has made, and still makes, major efforts to protect the lives of hostages and help get them released. In an interview with TIME magazine, President al-Asad said that "abduction is a crime, and from a humanitarian premise, we will make efforts as we did in the past, or do our best, for the sake of those abducted." Al-Asad's Syria has promised and delivered. It has confirmed its credibility and principled policy, and has therefore shown concern in carrying out many humanitarian actions without waiting for thanks or applause from others, proceeding in its moves from purely humanitarian premises.

The issue of hostages prompts us to talk about the nature of terrorism and those behind it in the region. The repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Israel's continued occupation of parts of southern Lebanon have created circumstances and factors conducive to permanent tension and to reaction from kidnappers expressing their anger against a U.S. position that is harmonious only with Israel's desires and interests without regard for others' national interests. The problem,therefore, necessitates the removal of Israel's occupation of parts of Lebanon—this is the basic reason behind the problem—and also an end to Israel's intervention in Lebanese affairs

Instead, Western and U.S. circles try to deal with the facts and realities in the region with obvious indifference, and ignore the fact that Israel is the reason behind all problems and a permanent source for tension.

Terrorism in the region originated with and is the official policy of Israel.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' handed over the hostage to the U.S. ambassador and said he hopes his release will initiate the release of all other hostages.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian said he was very happy and conveyed his country's appreciation to President al-Asad and the Syrian officials who helped in the hostage's release.

Robert Polhill was evidently happy when he expressed appreciation for Syria's role in guaranteeing his release and its humanitarian action in that direction.

Yes, the step was a major humanitarian one to be added to Syria's known positions and noble and humanitarian acts which demonstrate Syria's credibility and stem from its noble spirit.

Afghanistan

Presidential Decree Ends State of Emergency

LD0205182790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 May 90

[Decree by President Najibullah; date of issue not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

In order to further expand the favorable circumstances aimed at arriving at an understanding and the participation of all political Afghan forces in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace and security in the country, and also to express the Republic of Afghanistan's goodwill and to provide the necessary conditions for the participation of all political forces and personalities in the work of the Grand Assembly and to prepare amendments to the Constitution on the eve of the great political changes in hand; while the state sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan has become more stable and stronger from day to day and the current process on the national and international level is being consolidated and expanded, I declare an end to the state of emergency that was announced in accordance with Articles 143 and 144 of the Constitution and extended in accordance with the Grand Assembly's decision dated Sowr [April-May] 1989, as from 4 May 1990.

While the Republic of Afghanistan's decision concerning the ending of the state of emergency emanates from the intentions and will of the free-born and courageous people of Afghanistan toward the speediest maintenance of peace and security in the country through the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, once again all political forces inside and outside the country including organizations, groups, parties and prestigious national, political and religious personalities are invited—on the basis of love for the homeland and prioritizing the high interests of the homeland—to precisely understand the good intentions of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and, by participating and creating national understanding and conciliation, play their praiseworthy patriotic and Islamic role.

Once again our intentions and actions go before the judgment of the people of Afghanistan and their proud history. Almighty God will be the protector and helper of those who, relying on the will of God and the high principles of the shari'a, took steps toward peace, sincerity and understanding. While ending the state of emergency is counted as an important measure toward the maintenance of the above aim, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan will, as before, continue their task and mission in defending the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country and defending the freedom, honor, dignity, and security of the people and the gains of the policy of national reconciliation against the enemies of Afghanistan and those who have favored the interests of aliens rather than the lofty national interests and who are continuing war and fratricide.

With the ending and lifting of the state of emergency, the following actions are announced in accordance with the relevant laws for informing the compatriots and the precise organization of the work of various state organs:

1. The authority of Meli Shura enshrined in Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, and Part I of Paragraph 9, Article 81 of the Constitution, which was transferred to the Council of Ministers under Decrees 1,489 and 115, is retransferred to the Meli Shura.

2. The [word indistinct] and postponement of articles included in Paragraph 4 of Article 144 of the Constitution, which were enforced under Decree 1,489, are deleted.

3. In accordance with the instructions of Paragraph 2, Article 14 of the Law of the State of Emergency, with the enforcement of this decree, the articles of the aforementioned law become invalid.

4. In accordance with the instruction of Article 27 of the Law of the Supreme Homeland Defense Council, the Council has been disbanded and the instructions of the aforementioned law and bills emanating from it have become void.

5. Decrees Nos. 1489 and 115 concerning the declaration and extension of the State of Emergency, and also decree No. 768 dated 14 August 1989 concerning the travel of the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan outside the country during the state of emergency, are invalid.

This decree is to be published in the official gazette.

Success comes from God.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Vice President To Head Committee

BK0305031890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0308 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 3 (AFP)—President Najibullah ordered the lifting of a state of emergency across war-torn Afghanistan from midnight Thursday [3 May], more than two weeks ahead of schedule, a spokesman announced here. Government spokesman Humayan Mukammal said Mr. Najibullah in a special decree lifted the emergency which the government had earlier promised to lift by May 20.

Mr. Najibullah also named a 15-member committee headed by Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif to call a grand national assembly by the end of the month to adopt sweeping constitutional reforms to end the dragging civil war.

The emergency was first imposed just after the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February last year. The emergency gave Mr. Najibullah extraordinary powers overriding the national parliament.

The 15-member committee would work out the modalities of the grand national assembly, where an estimated 8,000 people representing different regions and tribal communities in Afghanistan are to vote to adopt constitutional amendments. The vice president, who leads the committee, is a non-party member in government. Other members are from the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and officials from the presidential secretariat.

A close aide of Mr. Najibullah and the youngest member of the PDPA Politburo, Farid Mazdak, 32, announced Monday [30 April] that the state of emergency would be lifted by May 20 clearing the way for constitutional reforms to end the civil war, which has cost more than a million lives in the past 12 years.

Another Politburo member, Najmuddin Kawiani, said Tuesday [1 May] that Kabul was ready to stage nationwide elections by the end of the year if Washington accepted Mr. Najibullah's candidature.

Preparatory Commission Set Up for Grand Assembly

LD0305081990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 2, BAKHTAR—For the better organization of the preparatory affairs of the loya jerga [grand assembly], and arranging agenda of the said jerga, the exact date of which will be later determined, a commission under the chairmanship of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] should be set up in Kabul.

(?Thus) says the decree of Najibullah, president of the RA, released today on the establishment of the preparatory commission for the convocation of loya jerga in Kabul, reported presidential office to BAKHTAR.

In the composition of the commission, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, caretaker of National Front; Engineer Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction; Muhammad Eshaq Tokhi, aide to the president of the RA; Nezamuddin Tahzib, chief justice; Sayed Sharafuddin Sharaf, attorney general; General Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister; 'Abdul Karim Mesaq, Kabul mayor; Muhammad Bashir Baghlani, minister of justice; Ahmad Bashir Roigar, minister of culture and information; Abdul Qudus Ghorbandi, deputy chairman of the National Front; Army General Muhammad Nabi Azimi, deputy defense minister and chief command of Kabul garrison; Yar Muhammad first deputy of the Ministry of State Security; Major General 'Abdul Rasul Sardeyee, deputy interior ministry; and Ahmad Nabi, head of the council affairs department of the presidential office of the RA, as secretary of the said commission, are included says the decree.

The commission is dutybound to fulfill the assigned duties in connection with the issues pertaining to the organization and preparation of loya terga.

Meanwhile, the members of the commission for the better performance of their assigned tasks, can set up working groups, it stresses.

Najibullah Looks to Perestroyka for Survival

BK0305025890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0239 GMT 3 May 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, May 3 (AFP)—Beleaguered President Najibullah is trying to introduce perestroyka in Afghanistan in an apparent bid to keep power and politically neutralise a highly militant opposition. Mr. Najibullah's Soviet-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) launched a political offensive this week, announcing sweeping constitutional reforms, an end to a 15-month state of emergency and possible elections by December. Key Politburo members and the president himself admitted last week that the PDPA had committed "serious mistakes" since coming to power in 1978 after a bloody coup and inviting Soviet troops to Afghanistan.

On Tuesday [1 May], Afghan resistance leaders rejected the proposed reforms. "It's a farce and mere eyewash," said Najibullah Lafraie, the official spokesman of the Pakistan-based resistance's Afghan Interim Government.

A diplomat here said that President Najibullah was "trying hard to build a new image for his party, erasing its pro-Moscow, pro-Marxist beginnings," adding that failure would mean the end of his political career.

Taking the lead from the 44-year-old strongman of Kabul, the youngest member of the Politburo, Farid Mazdak, went a step further and said the PDPA was perhaps the only party in the world which worked against its own ideals. "We had a democracy of bombs and tanks," Mr. Mazdak said, disassociating himself from the formation of the party in January 1965.

Mr. Mazdak, a trusted aide to Mr. Najibullah, said the party would remove constitutional privileges it enjoyed and clear the way for a multiparty democracy in the country. The move, he said, was also aimed at ending the 11-year-old civil war which has claimed more than a million lives. He also announced Monday [30 April] that a state of emergency in force since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February last year will end on May 20. A loya jirgah, or grand national assembly, will be summoned shortly afterwards to adopt constitutional amendments, he added.

Amendments are to allow private foreign investment in the country, permit private comanies to run schools and hospitals and liberalise almost all sectors of the economy and enshrine political pluralism.

Another Politburo member, Najmuddin Kawiani, told reporters Tuesday that Kabul was prepared to stage elections under U.N. supervision by the end of the year if Washington pressured opposition mujahidin factions to the negotiating table. Mr. Kawiani defended Mr. Najibullah's right to offer himself for re-election and called for a change in U.S. policy towards Afghanistan to end the dragging civil war.

"They must accept that all parties to the conflict must have a direct dialogue. What is the justification for leaving out Mr. Najibullah?" he asked.

Mujahidin groups, funded mainly by Washington, have consistently spurned peace offers from the Kabul government, which they brand a Soviet puppet, and refused peace talks unless Mr. Najibullah, who became president in 1987, steps down.

However, diplomats here believe that the beleaguered president would keep up his politial offensive backed by a propaganda campaign portraying him as a "reasonable man."

Kabul's hurried moves are also seen as being made with an eye on the upcoming summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at which the two are expected to discuss the Afghan issue. Mr. Mazdak said he had high hopes for the summit and believed that differences between the superpowers over Afghanistan had narrowed in recent months.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil had talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, in Moscow last month. Details of the talks were not announced, but diplomats said Kabul was urged to keep up the political process despite setbacks and repeated rejections from the mujahidin.

Mr. Najibullah survived a March 6 coup attempt by his defence minister, Shahnawaz Tanai. Mr. Mazdak said that had the attempt succeeded, the Soviets would have supported the new regime. "They (the Soviets) do not support individuals here," he said. "If Tanai came to power he would have had the backing of Moscow."

Mr. Najibullah is also moving quickly to capitalise on factional differences in the mujahidin and trying to project the PDPA as the only coherent party in the country. But that would not be easy as Mr. Najibullah is seen by the opposition as a "communist puppet of the Soviets," observers here say.

The Americans too would have problems getting the mujahidin act together, a Western diplomatic source said, adding: "If the big boys don't come up with something and very quickly, Afghanistan will be a write-off."

President Allows Establishment of New Party

LD0205200390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Kabul, 2 May (BAKHTAR)—The Office of the Presidency reports that a decree of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the granting of permission for the establishment of Hezbollah-e Afghanistan organization has been issued with the following text:

The decree of the president on the permission to establish Hezbollah-e Afghanistan organization:

In line with Article 5 of the Constitution and Article 8 of the Political Parties Law, the Hezbollah-e Afghanistan organization has been granted the permission of establishment. Founding members are obliged to act in keeping with Article 11 of the Political Parties Law.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Return of 20,000 Refugees to Qandahar Reported

LD0205193590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Over the past one month 20,000 families have returned from camps No. 1 and No. 2 in Baluchistan to the homeland. The families that have returned are from the Norzai tribe and have settled in the Spin Buldak of Qandahar and have resumed their peaceful life.

Bangladesh

Ershad Announces 'Major' Cabinet Reshuffle

BK0305093090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1912 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad revamped his Council of Ministers Wednesday [2 May], dropping six ministers and inducting nine others, officials said.

The president retained Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed in his post but stripped him of the information portfolio and put him in charge of the Education Ministry instead.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) reported that among those dropped were three cabinet ministers: Mahbubur Rahman (jute), Sunil Kumar Gupta (fisheries) and Nazimuddin al-Azad (religious affairs).

Three state ministers also lost their posts: A.T.M. Giasuddin Ahmed (relief), Mohammad Korban Ali (food) and Abdul Monin Mondol (jute).

BTV said Mr. Ershad administered oaths to his new ministers late Wednesday and reallocated some portfolios, the number of which went up to 41 from 38.

Among the new cabinet ministers, retired Major General Shamsul Haq replaces Abdus Sattar in the Commerce

Ministry and Justice Habibibul Islam Bhuiyan will take the Law and Justice portfolio long held by Vice President Moudud Ahmed.

Tajul Islam Chowdhury succeeds Sardar Amjad Hussain as land minister and Mizanur Rahman Shelly enters the Information Ministry post vacated by the prime minister.

The newly appointed state ministers are Michael Sishul Kumar Adhikari (relief), Fazle Rabbi (law and justice), Khaledur Rahman (labour and manpower), A.B.M. Shajahan (jute) and Kazi Mufazzal Hussain Kaikobad (religious affairs).

Retaining their positions are Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain; Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud; the home minister, retired Major General Mahmudul Hasan; and the finance and planning minister, retired Major General Abdul Munim.

Vice President Moudud Ahmed retains the key industry portfolio but was relieved as law and justice minister.

The reshuffle followed the recent resignations of Finance Minister Wahidul Haq and Planning Minister Abdul Karim Khandker.

Maj. Gen. Shamsul Haq, the new commerce minister, was previously minister for health and relief.

Mr. Tajul Islam Chowdhury, who was made full minister with the land portfolio, was state minister for youth and sports.

The new information minister, Mr. Mizanur Rahman Shelly, is a retired bureaucrat and writer and was chairman of the pro-government daily THE BANGLADESH TIMES.

India

Gujral Reaffirms Integrity, Sovereignty on Kashmir

BK0305090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, today reiterated in the Rajya Sabha that there will be no compromise on the question of India's integrity and sovereignty. Replying to clarifications sought by members on the statement made in the house yesterday, he said Kashmir is an integral part of India and we will not tolerate any interference or pressure from any quarter. The minister asserted that India is prepared to solve all its problems with Pakistan through bilateral and peaceful negotiations under the Simla agreement. He said India's stand has been appreciated by leaders the world over. He said any third party involvement is redundant. If Pakistan takes credible measures, India will not be found wanting. The minister pointed out that Pakistan, however, hopes to gain by overtly or covertly helping terrorists and by instigating insurgency in India. New Delhi on its part is keeping communication channels open with the belief that Pakistan will one day understand and abandon its policy.

Home Minister Rejects UN Team Role in Kashmir

BK0205125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, made it clear in the Rajya Sabha today that the UN observer team has no business to interfere in the internal affairs of India. He said the team's job is to supervise the actual line of control and have no right to make any inquiry in Kashmir, which is an integral part of our country. The home minister was replying to supplementaries during the question hour.

The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in a brief intervention denied that there is any report by the UN observer team on the situation in Kashmir. He said Pakistan had however raised the issue at the Human Rights meeting and this has been adequately replied to.

Refuting the allegations made by some opposition members, the home minister said people in the Kashmir Valley are not subject to any harassment by paramilitary forces during search operation. He urged the members not to cast any aspersion on the functioning of the security forces in the valley, who, he said, are doing a tremendous job under critical circumstances.

BJP Urges Crushing Kashmiri 'Muslim Separatism'

BK0205121990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 (AFP)—Hundreds of thousands of right-wing activists took to the streets here Wednesday [2 May], urging the government to take a tough line against neighbouring Pakistan and crush Muslim separatism in Kashmir. An estimated 300,000 members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) marched from a World War One monument, India Gate, to a ground near Parliament a kilometre away, waving a sea of banners and flags and chanting anti-Pakistan slogans.

Boisterous party members clapped and cheered wildly despite incessant rain as BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani virtually called for a war with Pakistan, which India has accused of supporting a bloody Muslim separatist campaign in the northern state of Kashmir.

"If Pakistan does not shut training camps for Kashmiri (Muslim) youths in its territory, then India should attack the camps and destroy them," Mr. Advani told the crowd, which triumphantly waved the BJP's saffron-and-green flags. The BJP chief accused Pakistan of training and arming Muslim militants, whose campaign for secession from New Delhi has reportedly claimed at least 415 lives this year.

"We want India to see that Pakistan closes all training camps," he said.

Islamabad has repeatedly denied charges of such involvement in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars.

Mr. Advani's views were echoed by other leaders of the pro-Hindu party, which rules three of India's 25 states and has extended crucial support to the country's new National Front federal government.

"The people are ready, the conditions are conducive," said Shanta Kumar, chief minister of tiny Himachal Pradesh state. "The Indian Government should do something (regarding Pakistan)."

"The time for reckoning has come," he added, drawing thunderous applause from the demonstrators, who came from several neighbouring states and numbered—according to BJP leaders—over half a million .

The snail-paced march halted traffic in parts of the city centre. Hundreds of armed police were on duty in the area, but there was no violence.

Another BJP leader, Chaman Lal Gupta, a Hindu who hails from Kashmir, charged Islamabad with despatching trained and armed Muslim youths to the state and said India "should give a befitting reply to Pakistan."

Party leader and former Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee defended a continuing crackdown in Kashmir, which Muslims and Indian human rights groups say has stripped Kashmiris of basic rights.

"Militants should be isolated, house-to-house searches are necessary and illegal arms should be confiscated," he said. "As long as Kashmiri youths hold weapons, the policy should be a gun for a gun and a bullet for a bullet."

The Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir has heightened fears of a fourth war between India and Pakistan.

Later, a resolution passed at the meeting by a show of hands asked the people of India "to be ready to pay any price necessary to protect and promote the unity and integrity of the motherland."

Adopts Resolution

BK0205131090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] A rally organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party in the capital today has urged the center to put down with a heavy hand the subversives and antinational elements in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam.

A resolution adopted at the rally urged the government to consider destroying bases in Pak-occupied Kashmir for training subversives and secessionist elements active in the Kashmir valley and Punjab. The resolution demanded that Article 370 of the Constitution which provides special status to Jammu and Kashmir should also be scrapped. The resolution also asked the center to strengthen intelligence agencies and check the secessionists in the northeastern region, especially in Assam.

Kashmiri Leader Leaves New York for Pakistan

BK0305040690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] A PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] report from New York says that Amanullah Khan, the self-styled chairman of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, left the United States for Pakistan on Tuesday [2 May] night. India had sought Amanullah Khan's extradition following his provocative statements inciting violence in Kashmir. A Jammu court had also issued a warrant for the arrest of Amanullah Khan on the basis of voluntary confessions made before a magistrate by subversives who disclosed Amanullah Khan's role in the killings of four Indian Air Force personnel and the Srinagar Doordarshan [television station] director.

The U.S. State Department had announced that it had canceled Amanullah Khan's visa. But sources close to him said he was never informed about the American decision till he left.

Arms Cache Seized, 13 Arrested in Kashmir

BK0205161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] In the continuing crackdown on subversives in the Kashmir Valley, security forces today seized a huge arms cache being brought into the valley from across the border and arrested 13 subversives and their collaborators. The cache includes eight AK-47 rifles, one multipurpose machine gun, eight rockets and one rocket-propelled grenade, 59 grenades, and a large quantity of explosives and 40 antipersonnel mines. Over 1,800 rounds of ammunition have also been seized.

The curfew was relaxed from 0900 to 1800 in Srinagar today and for varying periods in other places. There was no relaxation of the curfew in Badgom.

The governor, Mr. Jag Mohan, has constituted four teams for dealing with information, interrogation, and actual operation, and the fallout of the action on the disclosures made by the arrested persons.

Mr. Jag Mohan has condoled the death of Mr. Sarvanand Kaul Premi. In his condolence message, he recalled the services of Premi in the development of Kashmiri and Urdu literature.

The crime branch of Delhi police has arrested one Kashmiri militant described as the kingpin, financier, and focal point of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. Police sources have identified the militant as Shafad Ahmad Shangloo, son of Sarfaruddin Shangloo, a superintending engineer in the public health engineering department, Srinagar, who was arrested recently for kidnapping Dr. Rubia Sayeed [daughter of union home minister].

ADB 23d Annual Meeting Begins in New Delhi

Taiwanese Delegation Arrives

OW0105203090 Taipei CNA in English 1507 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Taipei, April 30 (CNA)—A 12-member delegation of the Republic of China, led by Finance Minister Shirley Kuo, arrived in New Delhi Sunday [29 April] to participate in the 23rd Annual Meeting of the board of governors of Asian Development Bank [ADB]. Kuo and her delegation were warmly greeted upon arrival at the airport by ADB President Kimimasa Tarumizu, according to a news report by the Far East News Agency Monday [30 April] from the Indian capital.

Some 2,000 delegates and observers from 49 countries and areas are participating in the ADB meeting.

Kuo is scheduled to deliver a speech Thursday [3 May] in the first session of the board meeting. She paid a courtesy call on ADB President Tarumizu Monday afternoon.

The closing ceremony will be held on Friday [4 May] after a three-day meeting.

Singh Addresses Meeting

OW0205070890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT 2 May 90

[By Ibarra C. Mateo]

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 KYODO—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on Wednesday opened the three-day 23rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) which brought together some 370 finance officials from 46 of the bank's 49 member countries.

Bank President Kimimasa Tarumizu, addressing the bank's board of governors for the first time since assuming the position last November, cited the "important catalytic role" of the bank in the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region.

Tarumizu said Asia is the "most dynamic and fastest growing" region in the world.

Asian economies posted an average 5.4 percent growth rate last year, a sharp decline from the 1988 figure of 9.3 percent but nonetheless better than the global economic expansion of 3.2 percent last year.

Tarumizu outlined the bank's strategies to meet challenges facing the Asian region during the coming decade. He cited three specific measures to respond to the changing needs of the member countries, namely, greater emphasis on poverty alleviation and environmental protection, strengthening of assistance to the private sector to spur productivity, and closer ties with member countries to optimize use of human and capital resources.

Foremost among the items on the agenda of the annual meeting are the ongoing talks on the replenishment of the Asian Development Fund (ADF) for the next four years, new policies on bank lending, and the controversial resumption of loans to China, stopped due to the Tiananmen incident last June.

On Tuesday, delegates of the developed economies, notably members of the Group of Seven (G-7), talked but failed to agree on the details of the ADF for the year 1991-1995.

The ADF is one of the three special funds administered by the bank and loans are disbursed at concessional terms to member countries with low per-capita gross national product (GNP) and limited debt repayment capacity, notably Bangladesh, Myanmar [Burma], Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

As of last December, the bank has approved ADF loans totaling 9.58 million dollars. Of the 3.6 million dollars allotted for 1987- 1990, about 1.63 million dollars is available for loan commitments.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who arrived here Tuesday night to lead the Japanese delegation, is expected to pitch strongly for the disbursement of the bank's loan to Beijing.

Hashimoto will hold bilateral meetings with Li Guixian, chief of the People's Bank of China, and the chiefs of the delegations from South Korea and Australia.

Japan and the United States are the two top biggest donor countries to the bank, with contributions each amounting to 3,165 million dollars.

Set up in December 1966 to foster growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, the ADB has 49 members, 15 of which are from outside the region. Japan and the nonregional members comprise the bank's bloc of industrialized economies.

Last month the ADB accepted the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia as the 48th and 49th members, respectively. Mongolia and Turkey, which sent a delegation to the 23rd annual meeting, are expected to become members of the bank shortly.

The bank's loan commitment last year rose to 3.62 billion dollars, 15 percent up from the 3.14 billion dollars in 1988. Of the 3.62 billion dollars, 2.26 billion dollars was drawn from the bank's ordinary capital resources, and 1.36 billion dollars from the ADF.

The bank, as of last December, had a total subscribed capital of 21,138 million dollars, down from the 21,645 million dollars as of December 1988.

U.S., Other Delegates Differ on China

OW0205145690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1411 GMT 2 May 90

[By Ibarra C. Mateo]

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 KYODO—Japanese and American delegates to the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will present on Thursday [3 May] contrasting positions regarding the controversial resumption of loans to China.

A Japanese Finance Ministry official said the Japanese delegation will "indirectly" lobby that the international community normalize ties with Beijing, especially economic ties. However, the Japanese official, who did not want to be identified, said it would be difficult for the ADB to disburse funds committed to China before other international finance institutions, such as the World Bank, start lending to China.

"It's difficult for ADB to resume lending to China before the World Bank takes a similar stance," the official said.

On Tuesday [1 May], other international banking sources attending the meeting said World Bank officials were preparing a country economic memorandum on China and will present to the bank board a proposal to resume financing China projects .

Victor Frank Jr., ADB director for the U.S., however, said his country will block any move to begin disbursing funds to Beijing "not intended for basic human needs".

"Our position has been that we are for basic human needs, but beyond that, we want China to institute reforms to lessen the volatility of its economy," he said. Frank did not elaborate. Other members of the U.S. delegation said they would like to see Beijing hasten economic reforms such as more liberal policies on foreign investments and lesser government intervention in trade.

ADB loans stalled in the aftermath of the Tiananmen incident last June include projects for fuel conversion, railway infrastructure, irrigation facilities, and steel mill modernization.

Japanese Minister Criticizes PRC

OW0305095990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 3 May 90

[By Waka Hamada]

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 KYODO—China is still lukewarm in its attempts to restore relations with the outside world, which has virtually divorced itself from China since the military suppression on prodemocrary demonstrators in Beijing last June, Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said here Thursday [3 May]. Hashimoto, who is leading the Japanese team to the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), told reporters he feels that China has a task to attain friendlier relationship with other countries. Japan and other Western counties as well as international bodies such as the ADB have imposed economic sanctions on China to protest the bloody crackdown.

In a speech delivered just before his press conference, Hashimoto said both China and the international community should boost efforts to bring their troubled relations to normalcy. Hashimoto said China seems to have neglected efforts for better ties with European countries despite its active approaches to Japan and the United States.

He said he received that impression when he attended a meeting of financial leaders from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries in Paris in early April. Though it seems difficult for the G-7 nations to reach agreement in softening their stance toward China, Hashimoto said, Japan has not changed its opinion that it is undesirable to isolate China from international society.

Referring to the language he used in his speech, he said he had wanted to stress the difference between Japan's relations with China from those of other countries by inserting the phrase "China, an old friend of Japan."

"Japan is different in the sense that it has a long history of close ties with the neighboring giant," he said.

Hashimoto, who is scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with the Chinese delegation later in the day at their request, said China is expected to urge an early resumption of the 810 billion yen package of official loans promised to China for 1990-95. That package has been on hold since last June.

Hashimoto also said Japan is open-minded about providing loans from the Asian Development Fund (ADF) to India and China, two giants in the region now that currently have no access to the bank's soft-loan window. Though pessimistic about early ADF lending, he said the bank's 49 member countries are expected to consider the possibility of such loans when they discuss the planned fifth replenishment of the ADF.

Asked about the upcoming meeting of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where the ninth replenishment of financial resources is also likely to be a highlight, the minister said he sees difficulties in resolving the controversial problem of revision of subscription shares among major nations. Under the IMF's planned capital increase, Japan is expected to go up to the No. 2 slot from the current No. 5 position in subscription share, which carries with it voting power. But talks have been at a stalemate due to discord among conflicting interests among major members, such as Britain and France.

Hashimoto, who cannot attend the IMF's meeting due to a Diet session, said he has given priority to attending the ADB meeting in order to show Japan's attitude for continued assistance to the region, which is concerned about possible diversion of funds to recently emerging East European nations.

Singh's Party in 'Desperate Search' for President

BK0205141690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 2 May 90

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's ruling Janata Dal (People's Party) has launched a desperate search for a consensus president, party sources said here Wednesday [2 May]. They said the move was aimed at minimizing the factional hostilities that prompted the 11th-hour postponement of a party leadership election, which was to have been held Tuesday [1 May]. Hectic last-ditch efforts were under way to forge a consensus through neutral mediators, and thus avoid an election that could allow differences spill into the open with potentially disastrous consequences for party unity, they said.

The election to choose a president for the party, chief constituent of the five-party National Front alliance, was postponed by a week to enable a consensus candidate to emerge. The postponement came Monday [30 April] after Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal threw his weight behind one of the three candidates.

In a statement seen as a virtual whip to party men, Mr. Devi Lal said in phone calls from China, where he was on a visit, that he backed S.R. Bommai, a regional politician from southern India with a farming background. He cut short his Beijing visit and flew back to India to help ensure that his candidate won.

Firebrand MP Jaipal Reddy, the party's forceful spokesman and known to be close to Mr. V.P. Singh, had been seen as the favourite for the job until Mr. Devi Lal made his opinion known.

The third candidate is Hukum Dev Narain Yadav, considered a non-starter.

Mr. V.P. Singh, 58, who stepped down as president of the Janata Dal on grounds that party officials should hold either government or party posts, has been silent through the whole affair.

"The problem is between a totally non-interfering prime minister and an all-interfering deputy prime minister," said a senior party member. "V.P. Singh does not want to get involved in such controversies, which are bound to come up whenever a critical party post needs to be filled," the member said.

"He prefers to adopt an approach of transcendence through distance. But he has to contend with a deputy who forever wants to play kingmaker," the source said.

The 75-year-old Mr. Devi Lal, the self-styled "tau" (elder uncle) of the party, has been seen by some as a party wrecker. He quit his ministerial post in March after his son came under attack for allegedly rigging an election in northern State of Haryana, but was persuaded to take back his resignation.

"What is the Janata Dal," he said in rage at the time, dubbing his critics anti-farmer, anti-rural and pro-capitalist. "I made the Janata Dal, see how I fix the high and mighty," he said.

Mr. Devi Lal had presided over the merger of three distinct political entities to form the two-year-old Janata Dal, where old factional and personal loyalties still dominate in the absence of an integral command structure.

The controversy over choosing a president was being seen as a "proxy war" between factions owing loyalty to Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Devi Lal. Observers said a victory for Mr. Devi Lal's candidate would be interpreted as a defeat for Mr. V.P. Singh.

"The sudden postponement of the election would lead one to believe that the top leaders of the Dal have eventually decided not to test out their respective strengths at the moment," the daily PATRIOT said in an editorial.

Commentators drew parallels between former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which has not had a leadership election since 1972, and the Janata Dal's search for a consensus president.

Janata Dal leaders had been proclaiming that electing their president through the ballot would show their party was different.

But Mr. Reddy, party spokesman and candidate, disagreed with criticism that choosing the president through backroom talks—in effect by doling out concessions to various factions—would rob the post of its lustre.

"Consensus and contest are both equally democratic processes," Mr. Reddy said, adding: "There are problems, but electing the chairman of a ruling party is not an easy affair anywhere in the world."

"If our efforts for a consensus are futile, we will go ahead and hold an election," he said.

Minister Announces Economic Plan for Punjab

BK0205162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 90

[Excerpts] The center has announced an economic package for Punjab. It envisages generation of more employment opportunities in rural areas and better irrigation and drainage facilities to give a boost to agriculture. Outlining the package, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, told the Lok Sabha today that the second phase of the Punjab irrigation and drainage project will be undertaken at a cost of 460 crore rupees. [passage omitted]

The home minister was replying to the debate on a statutory resolution seeking extension of president's rule in Punjab for another six months from the 11th of this month. The house later approved the resolution unanimously. [passage omitted]

Iran

President Rejects Ties, Talks With U.S.

LD0305121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today announced: Iran does not want ties with America, and we welcomed the severing of ties with America. This is what the imam, officials, Majles deputies, and various strata of people of Iran say: We are not prepared to talk to America.

Speaking today to a group of model teachers from all over the country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the esteemed position of teachers, while stressing that the primary mission and duty of teachers is the education of people, and teachers have a fundamental role in human development. At the meeting, also attended by education minister Mr. Najafi and his deputies, the president paid tribute to model teachers and Education Ministry officials. He said: The best thing that has been said about the position of teachers was said by his holiness the imam, that teaching is the vocation of prophets. This is no exaggeration, and it has been confirmed by others, and this is the highest honor for teachers.

The chairman of the supreme council of cultural revolution added: Teachers have a fundamental role in educating people, and anyone who engages in a good deed will reap the benefits. Therefore, a teacher will work for society even during his retirement. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The world and humanity can find their true nature through education and science, and the Koran has given a lot of importance to science. He then cited some verses from the Holy Koran, adding: Koran science, together with metaphysics and piety, has received attention, and there are numerous instances where God's prophets—such as David, Solomon, and Mohammad, may peace be upon him—have been told to learn sciences and metaphysics. There is a secret in the Koran stressing that metaphysical philosophy should come before science; this is because the Koran seeks to say that God favors the type of ecucation which accompanies metaphysical philosophy. He added: Without metaphysical philosophy, humanity will be in chaos as far as humane values are concerned. Even though it might be advanced in the materialistic fields, advancement in science without metaphysics is dangerous, and the world of arrogance, headed by America, at present suffers from a shortage of metaphysical philosophy.

An example of that is the current issues about hostage taking, and the wrong interpretation of American mass media about Iran needing to have ties with that country and the West in general, and the idea that Iran wants to achieve this by trying to release hostages. He added: What these mass media propagate is wrong. In our five-year economic, social, and economic development plan, we have so many applicants for various projects that we are forced to invite tenders. And it is not true that we should compromise with them for the sake of our needs. The president then stressed: If financial needs and incentives were the factor behind our people's movements, then there would have been no revolution in this country, and the defunct Shah would not have been toppled. The Shah's greatest crime was that he extended his hand towards the West, and that he had formed a state dependent on the West.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Even if we have needs, our nation is not the type of nation that would compromise with America. This nation, which has presented the revolution with so many martyrs and captives, is not prepared to neglect its aspirations for the sake of a machine. The president likened the reaction of the White House and the U.S. Government to the hostage issue to the act of a stubborn and complex-ridden child. He then pointed to the problem of hostage-taking in the world during the last few years, and said: Doubtless hostage-taking is an ugly phenomenon, and it was started by Western agents. Despite that, the Phalangists, in their dastardly propaganda to world public opinion, present the Lebanese people as hostage takers and kidnappers, and wage propaganda against them, while introducing Iran and any other revolutionary country as supporters of kidnapping. They have, thereby, deceived many countries.

Referring to the fact that the Phalangists, as agents of America and Israel, were the first to introduce hostage-taking, the president said: That despicable act was first introduced by the agents of America. Then the Zionist regime, on the other hand, came in through the southern frontiers to abduct more than 400 militant Shiites along with more than 1,000 Palestinians from their homes; now Israel has kept them in her prisons but calls them prisoners, rather than hostages. As an example, one can say that Israel has abducted a militant cleric like Shaykh 'Ubayd from his home. Is that not hostage-taking?

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Somebody had to do something to solve the problem of hostage-taking. The right thing was to expect a government like that of America, which is a big power, to take the initiative to solve the problem. However, here the Lebanese strugglers took the initiative and therefore they earned the honor of being pioneers. They released the hostages without putting up any conditions. Of course, they did so on our recommendation. However, they could either accept our advice or reject it. In fact, they did accept our advice.

Rather than responding to that measure by a suitable reward, America reacted by saying that she would not engage in any deal with hostage-takers. As if Israel or the Phalangists are not hostage-takers. That is a glaring example of the act of a human being who is literate but lacks metaphysical insight.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: As a rule, an angry and agitated revolutionary group that unconditionally releases a hostage only to come face to face with an irresponsible move by America should have resorted to revenge. Yet, they continued to show generosity. By freeing the second hostage they demonstrated utmost goodwill. But rather than being touched by that humane move, the American bullies repeated their previous remarks.

The president added: Simultaneous with that move, America thanked Iran and Syria for their efforts to free the hostages, and yet on the other hand she initiated a malicious propaganda move to the effect that until Iran frees all the hostages, she would not normalize relations.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked, when did Iran ask you [America] to restore relations, that you should raise such a point? He then added: During the past 10 years the people, the imam, the authorities, and the Majles have said—and today the leader of the revolution announces—that we are not prepared to talk to you.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is right for us to cooperate with European countries and to have relations and cooperation with all the countries in the world, in principle, except for two or three. It is right because at present the world situation is based on all-embracing cooperation such as scientific and technical exchanges as well as news exchanges, commercial ties, art, medical, and communications, and the like. Countries must cooperate with one another. If we need machinery made by Europe, then in return Europe is in need of our natural resources. So it is wrong to say that since the Iranians are in need, therefore they will compromise. Such a manner of confrontation shows that America is not interested in freeing the hostages and solving the problem of hostage taking. Rather, America is bent on abusing that human tragedy to attain colonialistic and political objectives.

According to the same report, in meeting model teachers from all over the country the president of the republic honored the status of martyred teacher Morteza Motahhari. He also commended the fact that a school has been named after that great late philosopher of the world and Islam. He hoped that the act of naming schools after him could bring his thoughts to fruition.

The chairman of the high council of cultural revolution expressed his joy that among 170 model teachers, 50 were women. He said: We are unhappy to see that the ladies have not yet found their role in society. Education is a suitable field for ladies to work. I hope in the future most of the model teachers will be women. He stressed that it is the duty of the government to serve the teachers.

Khamene'i Scorns Direct Talks With U.S.

LD0205141990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1048 GMT 2 May 90

[Address by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to education workers in Tehran on Teachers' Day—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted]

As to the issue which these days is being discussed by a number of intellectuals and experts—namely, the issue of whether to have talks or not—some say one thing, others another, some people write something and others write something different. Regarding this issue I must make a few brief comments, in good faith and having their best interests at heart.

Initially, I should make this point, that I am not worried about the expression of views, for a person to express his political views. It is a political point of view. So long as there are no lies, accusations, mischief-making, or deceits in the remarks which someone makes, there is nothing wrong with it. Yes, if there were lies, accusations or deceit, as responsible officials we should not allow someone to come and deceive the people or to tell them lies. However, when there are no lies, no accusations, no deceit and no insults to anyone, there is nothing wrong with it. Everybody should express his views. I wish to urge the writers, the experts, and those who have access to pens and podiums that they should not be worried at hearing an opposite point of view. Why should we be worried? We have logic, we have proofs, our words are not only acceptable to our own nation, but to hundreds of millions of Muslims and non-Muslims throughout the world. Why should we show anxiety regarding the remarks of someone when we have logic on our side, and why should we be worried? Of course, we should not leave those remarks unanswered. We should answer any remark which is wrong, but we should not transgress the limits of politeness. This was an introductory point.

However, regarding the talks, I believe that those who think that we should have talks with the head of arrogance, namely America, are either simple-minded or intimidated [shouts of God is great and slogans of Death to America, Death to England, Death to Israel, and Death to the Hypocrites]. As to the issue of being intimidated, I have repeatedly remarked that arrogance is more indebted to its aura of power and bullying than to its power and might. Arrogance basically lives on its bluffs [tashar], lives on the aura of its strength, lives on wearing frightful masks and frightening this one or that one.

At the moment, America is talking to the people of the third world, and lately she has even been talking to the rich and powerful nations, in such a way that if she does not desire it these nations cannot even breathe. Today America's method of dialogue even with the Soviet Union or with Europe is thus, let alone the people in Africa and in Asia. Unfortunately, they also gave in to it. I am not referring to the nations, but the leaders tend to accept it, while if 10 of those countries—I am not saying all of them—even if 10 countries from among the very poor countries of the world, not even the rich and the mighty, come and unite with one another and decide that they will not be frightened of America, will not have any dealings with America, will not pay ransom to America, they will not allow America to use them, to make strategic, military and economic use of them; if 10 countries decide to unite in this fashon, they will force America to retreat. They will be able to force not only America but the entire arrogant bloc of the world to retreat. [shouts of God is great and slogans]

The clear reason for this is that anywhere among the poor countries where a revolution occured and a government took power who would not pay America ransom, then America concentrated all its powers in order to topple and defeat that government, replacing it with one that supported it. Why? Because they are frightened; because they know that they cannot safeguard their interests and do what they want when a revolutionary government is in power, be it in Latin America or in a remote corner of Africa. In Nicaragua—even though it is a very poor, small and sparsely populated country with little resources—a government took power. America gave so much money to their counterrevolutionaries, and exerted so much pressure from various sides, that the government was unable to endure it all and went away—since that government did not enjoy a great deal of popularity, and it did not have a firm foundation of faith. They further, did not have the power to endure pressure, while from the outset they started out by being reliant on another place.

If America is not frightened of revolutionary governments, and if their resistance is not seen as impermeable by Americans, then why does America seek to topple such governments? If it does not need—[changes thought] very well, in such and such place a revolutionary government takes power, then America could say OK, we cut our relations with you and will not help you. But why do they then wage conspiracies aimed at the overthrow of such a government? This is because they know that if it stays in power, then American interests can no longer be safeguarded there, and they cannot be bullies any more. So even one revolutionary government can stop America and force it to retreat. They are not unbeatable, as they claim.

Another clear reason for arrogance—America, that is, as my topic of discussion is about America—not having the power that it claims to have, and its apparent might—which terrifies weak humans—being much more than its real power, is that in many places they seek to exert their power and domination, but they are unable to do so. This is because where they could do something, they did it [as heard], that is, in Panama. If America was able to do what it did in Panama in other revolutionary countries—such as Cuba, which has caused so much dismay and complaint among Americans—then they would have done the same. Therefore it is clear that it cannot. If it could, it would have done the same to some of that regions countries that are opposed to American policies, just as it did in Panama, since they have no consideration for humanistic issues. The American Government has no consideration for international laws, and does not respect the rights of nations. If they can, then they invade a country, and without any respect for the rights of that nation, they topple that country's state and government, just in the same way thay took that chap and imprisoned him in their country. They will do the same anywhere they can. Where they do not do such a thing, it is because they cannot. This is the reality of their power.

And a clear example is our own revolutionary country, on which they wanted to wage a military attack, but were unable to accomplish. Do you remember the Tabas incident? So did they come, but were unsuccessful. If they could, they would have tried it 10 times over. They could not, and that is why they did not return, because they did not have the power, and they knew that they would be defeated. When they considered themselves able they never considered that such an act was in contravention of the rights of the Iranian nation, and that it was against international laws; it was against international norms that someone should send helicopters from one side of the world to another, in order to violate a country's borders. They never gave a thought to such things, because they thought that they were able. But they were ignorant, as before. They came and realized that they were unable, and they were defeated. If it could, it would have returned again, but it could not.

There is not doubt that if America had been able to destroy the system of the Islamic republic during the last 11 years, it would have done so. But it could not. This is the meaning of those words so graciously stated by the imam, and correctly interpreted [as heard] by him, that America cannot do a damned thing. [crowd chants in support]

So much for that side of the argument. Now, looked at from a positive side, it is extremely wrong to be intimidated by America's capabilities and power. There are many countries which depend on America; they have ties with America. The head of their governments are friends of America. In such countries nobody has permission to insult America in the slightest way. Yet, what has America done for those countries? Which one of the difficult knots in their lives was ever untied by America? What wealth did America throw at them? What good did it do to them? Why are you intimidated by America's power? The result has been the other way around. Those countries which left the door of their house open to that treacherous thief saw that it entered and took away whatever it could lay its hands on.

If America has extended credits to any country, the intention has been to attract the buyers to its own market where the goods are sold at twice the real price, and the aim behind all that has been to enable its factories to run. If it lends money it is geared to the objective of that loan being used for the purchase of its own products, or the products of its allies. If it gives weapons, it is because it wants those weapons to be used to defend itself from its own enemies, rather than being used to defend the recipients from their own enemies. One example is our own previous regime.

It is not the case that if America is against a country, then that country can no longer live in the world; and that if America is friends with a country, then that country can live happily ever after. That is what the Americans are propagating; they try to show that if a country is against them, then all roads will be closed to it. No, sir. That is not the case. For the past 11 years our people have not stopped shouting the slogan of Death to America, and yet the roads were not closed in our face. If we were to make an effort, if we were to work for it, we would be able to open a path for ourselves. America does not own the world, does it? Who do they think they are—these arrogant, corrupt bullies who claim to own the world? They can go to hell. [ghalat mikonand]. Their friendship is not the source of a blessing to anybody. No sir, their friendship with any country is the source of that nation's misery and shame.

So much for intimidation. As to simple-mindedness. Talks. What does the term talks mean? Will the problems be solved merely by sitting down to talk with America? That is not so. In the parlance of politics, talking means to make deals. To talk with America means to make a deal with America. To make a deal means give and take—take something in return for giving something. What piece of the Islamic revolution are you going to give to America in return for forgetting something from it? Tell me now. What is it that you intend to give to America in return for getting something from America? What can we give to America? What does it want of us? Do you know what it wants? [passage omitted] By God I swear that nothing makes America so angry against the Iranian nation as their being Muslims and their being faithful to the pure Mohammadan Islam. [chanting by the crowd]. America wants you to abandon your faith. It wants you to not stand erect and feel proud. Are you ready for that?

They tell us to come to make a deal on the hostages. That too, smacks of simple-mindedness. Of course, from the very beginning we announced that we were ready, to the extent of our power, to help free the hostages. However, we do not own the hostage takers. They are oppressed and victimized people who have the hostages in their hold for various motives. So long as there is no conflict with our principles and so long as our word goes, we have no objection to helping. However, it is not for the sake of America; it is for the sake of our duty, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of principles. It is on account of our principles. Who does America think it is? We are not doing it for America.

Now let us assume that somebody did it for the sake of America. What will America's response be? In the news yesterday or the day before, we read on the telexes that on the one hand Bush has thanked Syria for its help in freeing the hostages and on the other hand the Government of America has warned Syria, in their view, has served notice on Syria, that they should not believe that the mere freeing of a hostage and the hostages is sufficient for the normalization of their relations with America. [America tells Syria] You should revise your policies. It has then mentioned the cases—policies regarding the war between the Arabs and Israel. That is, [America tells Syria] you must enter the Camp David pact. Shame on any nation and government which knuckles under to such impositions by America. [chanting by the crowd]

This is America's expectation of those who it feels are a bit weak. [America tells them] You must reconsider your policies, the Arab-Israeli policies. How simple-minded it would be if some were to say: Let us go to a negotiating table, to talk with an arrogant system, which does not believe in human principles and international laws. The Americans do not believe in international principles and laws.

The U.S. Government is the same government whose criminal officer ordered a missile fired to shoot down a passenger airliner, built for several hundred passengers, into the sea. They destroyed men, and women, young and old; and the U.S. Government not only did not try the officer; rather, I heard that the current President of America granted him a medal for outstanding service. See what sort of people they are! What are you saying? Do they believe in international laws? Do they believe in human rights? No, I am against holding talks with America, and it is impossible that the Government of the Islamic Republic would do such a thing without my permission; and they too, as a rule, are not in favor of such a thing.

Some are talking of active diplomacy. Yes, we believe in active diplomacy. We believe our Foreign Ministry should be active all over the world, minus the few exceptions we have mentioned. Of course, we have often said: They must observe honor, wisdom, and expediency. They should go and establish links with all governments with different systems, ideologies, and various methods. There is no obstacle, but there is a forbidden zone, beyond which they should not go. Europe is an example. Since the time of his holiness the imam—may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds—we allowed [maintaining ties] with the European governments. His holiness had permitted maintaining links with the European goverments, and our Foreign Ministry was very active. Well, let me ask whether most of the West European governments, with whom we maintained friendly relations and trade without severing ties, behaved in the same way toward the Islamic Republic as we expected? No, they were even weaker than America. We saw how, on various issues, they showed their innate opposition to the Islamic Republic and Islam. The issue is the issue of Islam.

I am saying that if you wish the world to count on you, you must strengthen yourself. If you wish to make the world safeguard your honor and prestige, the nation of Iran, then you must rely on yourselves and allow your innate capabilities to blossom. That is, your capability in science, in economics, in work abilities, and in military defense capabilities. When a nation becomes strong, when a nation is united, and when a nation believes in God and is not afraid of satans, such a nation would even force his enemies to show respect; the same as you see today that, praise be to God, contrary to all the baseless rumors spread from time to time by the mass media affiliated to arrogance about the nation of Iran and the Islamic system, all the nations who recognise Iran and know the Iranian nation have respect for you the nation of Iran. We have seen this closely. The Iranian nation enjoys glory even in the eyes of its enemies. This is because of its reliance on itself. Preserve this reliance, do not be afraid of the enemy, do not be frightened by America's insane hue and cry, and maintain your unity. I particularly stress maintianing this unity. Stand behind your government.

If someone has listened to the enemies' propaganda, he has realized that their main emphasis is on the following two points: division and economic problems. They keep saying there is division and division [word repeated] and discord. They keep repeating this because when someone hears it being repeated, he becomes suspicious, even though he can see no discord, that perhaps there is something that they keep talking about.

About the economic issues, they keep talking of Iran's poor economic plight and the government's problems. Whereas, this is contrary to the facts. Of course we have some problems, but currently we are moving toward solving these problems. Is it a joke to come through eight years of war? Several years ago, during a television debate held on a certain occasion, I said that after the [world] war period, in the 1320s [1939-1945], when I was a very small boy, I remember that although Iran was not involved in the war, the ripples of the world war hit Iran and even wheat bread could not be found for ages; we used to eat barley bread in our house, there was no wheat bread for the people to eat; the people were living in the most deprived manner; there was no sugar to be taken with tea. Praise be to God, today we have come through eight years of war and we do not face such problems. This is because the nation is behind the government. It is because the nation is awake. It is because the responsible authorities of the government are sympathetic and eager.

Go ahead the same way, and with Almighty succur and by relying upon the power of the sincere people in this society, these problems will be eliminated and the enemies will draw a blank. We have no need to see our sworn enemies such as America feeling sorry for us. And we are not after any talks or restoration of ties with them either. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Khomeyni Stresses No Compromise With U.S.

LD0205110190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Mr. Serajoddin Musavi, general commander of Islamic Revolution Committees [IRC] and representative of Vali-e Faqih [vice regency of jurisconsult] in that institution, accompanied by IRC's officials, this morning met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. During the meeting, Ahmad Khomeyni pointed to the conspiracies of superpowers and their enmity toward the Islamic revolution, while stressing steadfastness in safeguarding the objectives of the revolution and his holiness the imam. He said: The revolution caused the superpowers to be humble before us. bush and mitterrand congratulating Muslims on 'Id al-Fitr is an indication of that.

He added: No matter what we give up, we will not give up the objectives of the imam and the revolution. If we compromise with the United States, then we will be regarded as weak, and then they will put us under pressure. He added: The annihiliation of the revolution's aspirations and the Hezbollah cells in the world really bring shame upon the Islamic world.

Addressing the IRC officials, he said: You must remember that the people consider you the offspring of the imam and the revolution. They expect you, as the longest standing institution in charge of defending the revolution's objectives, to treat them with kindness, while fully serving them.

Majles Deputies Assail 'Direct Talks' With U.S.

LD0205132!90 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] In yesterday's open session of the Majles a number of deputies delivered pre-agenda speeches. We broadcast excerpts from the speeches of two of them. Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, deputy from 'Aligudarz, as one of the pre-agenda speakers, said:

[Begin recording] [Ahmadi] I wish to honor the memory of the illustrious scholar of the Islamic revolution, Professor Ayatollah Motahhari, as well as honoring the anniversary of the martyrdom of two of his students from Lorestan, the model teacher Martyr Zare', and martyred guard Mohammadi. I also wish to honor and bow my head to the toiling workers engaged in the forefront of production, about whom the holy prophet said that he kisses their calloused hands.

I also wish to bestow curses, imprecations, and wishes for the death of the great Satan, America, and all her satellites, especially the followers of the American Islam who in various political and economic fronts are bent on defeating the Islamic revolution; who are engaged in great endeavor to destroy the path and the name of Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his noble soul, and to continue keeping the oppressed in bondage. The core of the imam's path is independence and the observance of the principle of "neither Eastern nor Western" and the implementation of the teachings of God now and for ever. This path perpetuates a holy hatred for world arrogance, led by America; because the relationship between America and the oppressed has always been like the relationship between a wolf and a lamb. While expressing my appreciation for the untiring efforts of the serving government of Engineer Musavi, I also hope that the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be able to serve and to implement the goals of the first Five-Year Plan of the system of the Islamic Republic. [end recording]

Mr. Hadi-Ghaffari, deputy from Tehran, was another pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's Majles, who said in a part of his speech:

[Begin recording] [Hadi-Ghaffari] These days one can hear the evil murmuring of direct talks with America, sometimes from the pens of partially popular individuals who, during the apparent rule of the hypocrites, signed a letter in support of the hypocrites in this very Majles. This is a great calamity which is perpetrated in order to pave the way for compromise with America. Before any other detail, I wish to quote the blessed words of the imam, God's peace be upon him, where he graciously said: The Muslims of the world, with the support of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, should be completely determined to crush America's teeth in its mouth and to witness the blooming of the flower of freedom, monotheism and imamate in the world of the holy prophet. That was from the message of the imam to the pilgrims to the holy house in the year 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987]. These are also words of the imam: With all our might we shall fight against the continuation of extortionism and the immunity of American officials, even if it is through violent struggle. God willing, we shall not allow the Ka'ba and the hajj, this great pulpit which has been erected upon the lofty summit of humanity, which should broadcast the voice of the wronged people throughout the world, and which should make the call of monotheism echo throughout the world, to become an instrument for raising the call of compromise with America and the Soviet Union and of blasphemy and polytheism. We beseech God Almighty to grant us strength so that not only from the Ka'ba of the Muslims but even from the churches of the world, the bell of death to America and to the Soviet Union may be tolled. This was the message of the imam to the pilgrims in the year when the bloody tragedy of hajj took place, in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. [end recording]

Majles Deputy Attacks Mohajerani Article

LD0205165390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Hoseyn Mozaffarinezhad, a deputy from Tehran, was the first pre-agenda speaker in today's session of the Majles. At the begining of his speech, he said:

[Begin Mozaffarinezhad recording] On Thursday of last week [26 April], ETTELA'AT newspaper published an article entitled "Direct Talks". In that article it was clearly said that one should give a positive response to the recent proposal made by the U.S. Minister of Foreign Affairs [as heard] James Baker for direct talks. The writer of the article implied that indirect talks with the United States are certain and legitimate and something which is going on. He also tried to say that the issue today is not limited only to seeing whether indirect talks or direct talks are better. In a number of paragraphs he put together several issues as suppositions, and if there was time I would read it all so that the nature and aims of that article would be made clearer. However, I refrain from doing so, but I urge the brothers and sisters to read it for themselves.

The first paragraph of the article is about Resolution 598 and the United States' influence in the Security Council. This paragraph clearly admits to the overwhelming power of the United States and an expression of weakeness and abjectness toward the United States. It also implies a kind of praise for the power of the great Satan and implies that we need the United States with regard to the resolution.

The second paragraph refers to the freezing of our assets and the confiscation of our spare parts in the United States, and in a way it brings to mind the words of the accursed Bani-Sadr who said: We are America's hostages.

Another paragraph is disgustingly explicit about its desire for submission. Referring to the fact that Iraq, by making use of international and diplomatic means, has strengthened its military and political capabilities, the article states that the mercenary practice adopted by the lackey regime of Iraq has been successful. With its premises and syllogisms the article, in fact, tries to imply that Iraq's method has been successful method and that our independence-seeking and revolutionary methods—which are referred to as playing with ice [bazi ba yakh]—condemned to failure.

In the fifth paragraph, raising the issue of reconstruction and the need for repairing the great amount of destruction which was caused during the war, the article makes out that success in this work too is dependent on relations with the United States. The imam said: Those who imagine that fighting for the independence and freedom of the oppressed and deprived people of the world is not incompatible with capitalism and comfort-seeking are not aware of the alphabet of struggle. He also said: The committed clergy are thirsty for the blood of leech-like capitalists and will never compromise with them. [end recording]

Khamene'i Says No Insult Intended to Mohajerani

LD0205204590 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said in a note to the Vice President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs 'Ata-'ollah Mohajerani here today that his comments on the topic of direct talks (between the Islamic Republic and the United States) Wednesday [2 May] were well-wished and not meant to wound Mohajerani's feelings. He said based on the comments he had heard pursuant to his statement Wednesday morning, he gather that "some people" have interpreted his comments as an insult against the person of Mohajerani, and that some might have, perhaps, even wanted to exploit his statement as a justification for insulting him (Mohajerani).

Ayatollah Khamene'i said when he uttered that statement he did not mean to insult Mohajerani, and that he owes the vice president an apology if his comments do sound like an insult. The leader of the Islamic Republic said in his note to Mohajerani that he knows him as a person with an upright and sincere character, and that he knows Mohajerani had been compelled solely by goodwill and noble intentions (in what he had said in an article about the direct talks between the two countries) last Thursday [26 April].

He said the most extreme reaction of the government of the Islamic Republic would be to refuse to consider the views of the vice president in that connection, and nothing else.

Editorial Urges Exposing U.S. 'Weaknesses'

PM0205104090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 11 Apr 90 p 8

[Editorial: "One Can Force the Aggressive Powers To Correct Their Mistakes"]

[Text] The United States and other countries who use their military and economic might to control the world use all their power and all their effort to rule the nations which have been kept in an underdeveloped state. They also try to hide their numerous weaknesses by causing fear among the peoples of the world.

The only thing the United States and countries like it are scared of, is exposure of their weaknesses. This is why if there is a voice somewhere in the world that rejects their control and threatens to reveal their illegitimate methods of governing, they try in any way they can to stop the rest of the world from hearing that voice.

These countries have various means at their disposal to silence justice-seeking cries. Propaganda machines and weapons such as human rights and such things are often used to cover up the weaknesses of the big powers.

Perhaps you have not yet heard of (Zarubeh Bin-Wahed), a militant American Muslim struggler, who had spent many years in U.S. jails only because of this rightful struggle.

This militant prisoner was finally released from prison at the beginning of the new year. Why? In reality one must look to the efforts of revolutionary governments and peoples who made an effort, who have been able to expose U.S. weaknesses so well. Of course under such circumstances, the bullies have no choice but to correct some of their mistakes.

The English language KEYHAN at the end of last year exposed the cause of this Muslim political prisoner in the United States and asked that this Muslim struggler be freed. While Washington has undertaken a huge propaganda campaign against the Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon with regard to the Western hostages in Lebanon, it had also somehow linked the release of (Zarubeh Bin- Wahed) to the Western hostages in Lebanon.

The issue of the Western hostages is nothing but the direct result of U.S. bullying policies and is the Muslim revolutionaries' reply to Washington's actions. In any case the release of an American struggler from prison in the United States is the result of efforts by those peoples and those government who by rejecting this superpower, have forced this devilish power to react. This is something that other independent peoples and governments could use to gain their rights.

Graduate Student Expelled From UK

Arrives in Tehran

NC0205065090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Another Iranian student has been expelled from the UK. According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Manuchehr Fadavi-Ardestani, a student in his final year of the doctorate program in mechanical engineering at Manchester University, arrived in Tehran this morning and was received by representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Speaking to our correspondent on the manner of and reason for his expulsion from the UK, he said: The British police did not show me any documents; they merely informed me that I must leave the country because of my support for Iran and cooperation with Islamic groups.

Assails UK 'Hostility'

LD0205075590 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The British Government once again demonstrated its hostility against the Islamic revolution by expelling another Iranian Muslim student, Manuchehr Fadavi-Ardestani from. [as received]

Fadavi-Ardestani, a Ph.D. student in mechanical engineering in Manchester was boarded by security officers on a plane destined for Tehran Tuesday night [1 May] and arrived here Wednesday morning [2 May].

Ironically London has repeatedly asked the Islamic Republic of Iran help secure release of British hostages in Lebanon.

Upon arrival at Tehran Mehrabad Intenational Airport, Fadavi-Ardestani in a brief address to those welcoming him deplored British hostility towards Muslims and the Iranian students in particular and called for the release of Mehrdad Kowkabi, Iranian Muslim student detained in Britain.

Radio Commentary

LD0305151190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1121 GMT 3 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] An Iranian student, who was deported from Britain, arrived home yesterday. He was a student at Manchester University, studying for a PhD in mechanical engineering, and received his deportation order on charges of having links with the groups sympathetic to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. About the reason for deporting this Iranian student, the British Home Office, without accusing him of anything, has just contented itself by stating the general phrase that he was a threat to public security and the interests of society.

Since the ratification of the bill to sever Iran's diplomatic relations with Britain in February-March 1989, more than 90 subjects of the IRI have been deported from Britain. This group have been mainly higher degree students or some employees of Iranian institutions in Britain. Although the rason for their deportation is always mentioned as security reasons, no evidence has ever been provided to support such conclusions. It is obvious that the British Government's contentment with this much is indicative of lack of any evidence which could be substantiated.

In addition to raising the issue of security matters, links between the expelled Iranians and institutions and groups affiliated to their country are raised as another justification for their deportation. Certainly, resorting to such justifications will never have any logical or legal basis. Members of any country, living in a foreign land, need to contact their respective country's organizations and representative offices for various cultural, consular, and financial reasons; and basically this is the reason for establishment of such organizations abroad. How can one, therefore, accept that a mere contact with such organizations could be considered a reason for deportation? It thus becomes clear that the deportation of the Iranians and the illegal detention of another Iranian student without sufficient evidence should be studied in a different framework from what is announced by the British Home Office.

The severance of the IRI's diplomatic relations with the British Government, which occured in the wake of its overt support for the publication and distribution of the book "The Satanic Verses", was in fact a failure of Britain's foreign policy in the Middle East. Not only did this issue sever diplomatic links with one of the most influential countries of the region; rather because of lack of ties with one of the major parties, in practice it deprived Britain's Middle Eastern policy from achieving anything. For this reason, despite the fact that reconsideration of the British Government's stand toward distribution of "The Satanic Verses" is considered the condition for improving relations between the two countries, the expression of willingness to restore ties with Iran is a point that British officials have explicitly mentioned. At any rate, it seems that in view of a lack of suitable grounds for diplomatic ties between the two countries, if the conditions set by the Islamic Majlis are not realized, the British Government, by pursuing the policy of harrassing and deporting Iranian nationals, intends to seek ransom and exert pressure. No doubt the British Government's measure in deporting the Iranian student is an irresponsible move and contrary to legal principles, which will bring no fruit but its condemnation in the eyes of the Iranian nation.

Velayati Leaves for Visit to Finland 2 May

LD0205075190 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high-level political delegation left here for Helsinki Wednesday morning [2 May] on an official visit at the invitation of his Finnish counterpart Pertti Paasio. During the visit, Velayati will meet top-ranking Finnish officials and discuss Tehran-Helsinki ties, key international issues as well as bilateral cooperation in world bodies and forums.

Finland chairs the United Nations Security Council this month.

Paper Reports Denial of Danish Execution Claims

NC2904110990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 90 pp 1, 7

[Report by the TEHRAN TIMES City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—An Iranian who was "executed by a security official" surprised all in the office of the TEHRAN TIMES when he arrived and denied a Western media report saying, "No I'm alive and happy here in my country."

The person was 38 years Qasem 'Ali Maturlaqeh who comes from Abadan, Khuzestan Province.

Danish media recently highlighted the story and said that Maturlaqeh was imprisoned, tortured and finally executed in Iran after his return from Denmark.

So much so the antirevolutionary elements in Denmark started a campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These anti-revolutionary and deviated Iranians abroad did their best to paint a picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country where people are tortured, imprisoned and executed. But they failed in their nefarious objective, Maturlaqeh told the TEHRAN TIMES.

Maturlaqeh was born in Abadan and after the outbreak of war between Iran and Iraq migrated from his hometown to Shiraz, Fars Province in 1980.

He is married and has three sons, the eldest is 12 years of age. His name is Emil.

"Well like many others I thought that my son can get better education in Denmark," he said, adding that "I decided to go to Bombay, India for getting a visa for Denmark from there."

Maturlaqeh succeeded in his mission and left Bombay for Denmark via Amsterdam, Holland some nine months ago. He does not remember the exact dates of his journey.

"I applied for the asylum in Denmark and the Danish authorities rejected my application on the grounds that the reason was not enough for that," Maturlaqeh said.

He appealed to the Danish authorities to say he wanted to take asylum for the better education of his son who had accompanied him on his journey.

The police in Copenhagen sent me back to Iran after keeping two days in prison. They kept my son apart from me in a camp, he said.

"I'm really extremely happy and living with my family in Shiraz," he said, adding that I have again started my old profession of painting automobiles.

When asked whether the security forces in Iran tortured, imprisoned and executed him, Maturlaqeh scoffed and said, "You can see me here in good shape and you can understand how authentic the reports of my execution and torture are.

"I saw a number of Iranians in Denmark who are really in bad shape and want to come back to their country," he said and pointed out that there are some groups and people who try that the Iranians may not come back to their homeland.

"This is the reason that they contacted the media and gave them a fake report on Iran," he said and underlined the fact that "antirevolutionaries deter the Iranians from coming back to their Islamic land.

"You know when I came back to Shiraz the same elements telephoned and informed me that they were doing sit-ins and strikes conducting [as published] in order to project Iran to appear as a place where those who return to this country are tortured and executed," Maturlaqeh said.

"I advised them not do so, but they did not listen to me and made such baseless propaganda," he said.

Maturlaqeh said, "please print my words in your daily so that baseless propaganda about my execution may be nullified."

Paper Urges Assessment of Technological Capability

LD0305085990 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—An English-language daily Thursday [3 May] recommended the government and the president to discover technological capacity of the country and industrial management power "before launching any extensive technological venture." In an editorial 'TEHRAN TIMES' stressed that the country should invest heavily on training industrial managers and determine its technological standing.

"This should enable the government to spot the pros and cons of large scale technological projects in a much brighter light and determine if it can handle them in a way to enhance the present technological structure," wrote the article. It noted that to find out the fields in which technology could be absorbed or not, would be a great step which could save large amount of labor and capital.

"In fact no country can master all fields of technology. We should concentrate on those realms of technology that are coherent with and cognizant of our domestic resources and capitals," concluded the daily.

National Security Council Meets 28 Apr

NC2904063590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The members of the Supreme Council for National Security met yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

IRNA reports that during the meeting the plan to equip Khuzestan Province and the principles and policy for the development of the province by the year 1381 [21 March 2002-20 March 2003] in view of defense and security considerations were discussed.

National Security High Council Convenes 1 May

LD0105203390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] The National Security High Council convened this afternoon. At the said meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati informed the members of the council of his report on his recent talks in New York regarding the implementation of the Resolution 598.

Meanwhile, at the said meeting, a letter, which was recently sent by the Iraqi Government on the peace talks and the situation of the region, was surveyed; necessary decisions were then adopted.

Official Reports on Natural Gas Production

NC0305110190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 May 90

[Recorded telephone report by an unidentified correspondent in Shahr-e Kord]

[Text] By increasing annual natural gas production in Iran, 100,000 tonnes of liquid natural gas will be exported this [Iranian] year. The managing director of the National Iranian Liquid Natural Gas Company, who is visiting Shahr-e Kord, stated this in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent. He added: Currently 4,400 tonnes of natural gas are produced in the country each day. In addition to that used for domestic needs, some natural gas is injected into crude oil because of problems in natural gas transportation, while the remainder is intended for exports. [sentence as heard]

He continued by saying that 8 million litres of natural gas are used in the country daily and said: By the end of the Five-Year Plan, domestic consumption is expected to reach 15 million litres daily. The managing director of the National Iranian Liquid Natural Gas Company added: By the end of the current [Iranian] year, the first phase of the Imam Khomeyni Port Petrochemical Complex will be completed and about 700,000 tonnes of natural gas will be produced annually in the complex. In view of the increasing production of natural gas in Iran, by the end of the Five-Year Plan more than 40 percent of the country's villages are expected to be covered by the natural gas distribution network.

This is the correspondent of the Central News Unit in Shahr-e Kord.

Tabriz Airport To Handle International Traffic

LD2804203590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] In line with the policy of decentralization and toward the expansion of air links with various countries, Tabriz Airport has been declared an international airport starting today. With the extension and expansion of Tabriz Airport's facilities, flight to Turkey, the Soviet Union, and the UAE will depart from Tabriz International Airport.

The Central News Unit reports that the head of the country's civil aviation announced the fact in Tabriz today and said in connection with the expansion of airports in various towns of eastern Azarbaijan: The full use of Ardebil Airport will commence in 1993 and the construction if airports in the towns of Maragheh and Khoy are also under examination; their construction will commence on the basis of self-help by the two towns' residents.

Pakistan

Further on Japanese Prime Minister's Visit

Meets With Bhutto

OW0205114790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 2 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday [2 May] shortly after arriving here on the third leg of his five-nation Asian tour.

After a solemn airport welcoming ceremony marked by a 19-gun salute, Bhutto and Kaifu drove to the Presidential Palace for a scheduled two-hour meeting.

The talks were expected to center on bilateral ties and regional issues, including the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India and the Afghanistan conflict.

Kaifu was also scheduled to call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan later in the day and attend a banquet to be hosted in his honor by Bhutto.

On the way to the city center, Bhutto expressed her welcome to Kaifu, saying, "I hope you will see Pakistan as much as possible despite your short stay here."

Kaifu, accompanied by his wife Sachiyo, will stay in Islamabad until Thursday [3 May]. He will visit Sri Lanka and Indonesia before returning to Tokyo on Sunday [6 May].

"I am very happy to visit Pakistan," Kaifu told Bhutto during the drive to the city.

He said he would like to meet as many people in Pakistan as possible.

Kaifu flew in from Dhaka, where he met with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad during an overnight visit.

Kaifu was the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Pakistan after a trip in 1984 by then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Further on Bhutto Meeting

OW0205151990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 2 May 90

[Report by Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Islamabad, May 2 KYODO—Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called on Pakistan on Wednesday [2 May] to resolve the Kashmir dispute with India peacefully.

Kaifu made the request in a two-hour meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a Japanese spokesman said.

Bhutto said Pakistan expects Japan to play a role in bringing the dispute to a peaceful solution.

She told Kaifu that Pakistan hopes to resolve the dispute peacefully, but India has ambitions to enlarge its influence over the South Asian region, Japanese officials said.

The Pakistani Premier later said at a news conference joined by Kaifu that Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India over the Kashmir dispute.

Kaifu responded that Japan is ready to play a role in resolving the Kashmir dispute if necessary.

Kaifu also conveyed remarks by Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh regarding Kashmir, quoting Singh as saying that India would go two steps to resolve the problem if Pakistan will go one step.

The Japanese Prime Minister, who met Singh earlier this week during a stop in New Delhi, asked Bhutto to resolve the Kashmir dispute in the spirit of the Simla Accord signed by Pakistan and India in 1973.

Pakistan and India, which agreed in the accord to resolve the dispute by dialogue, have had strained relations over the conflict since mid-January.

New Delhi claims Islamabad instigated the secessionist campaign in India's only state where Muslims form the majority.

Touching on Afghanistan, Kaifu said Japan will continue to give aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Japan has extended a total of 330 million dollars in grants-in-aid to the 3 million or so Afghan refugees through the United Nations and Pakistan as of 1989.

Discussing bilateral relations, Kaifu and Bhutto agreed that Japan and Pakistan should step up dialogue and cooperation to strengthen political, economic, trade, and technological relations between their two countries.

Kaifu promised to extend a 20 billion yen loan to Pakistan for a telecommunications project. Japanese aid to Pakistan totals 60 billion yen since March 1989.

A total of 40 billion yen has been committed to Islamabad for the construction of the Indus Highway between Peshawar and Karachi and to renovate a financial center.

Bhutto told Kaifu that Pakistan has been encouraged by Japan's economic and financial aid, and urged Japan to make more investment in Pakistan.

Kaifu said Toyota Motor Corp.—Japan's largest automobile manufacturing firm—will begin to produce 20,000 passenger cars near Karachi annually from late 1992 or 1993.

The Japanese Prime Minister turned his talks to cultural cooperation between the two countries, saying that Japan will extend about 340,000 dollars to preserve the historical ruins at Mohenjo Daro.

Kaifu stressed the importance of personnel exchanges between the two countries, and invited Bhutto to visit Japan.

The Kaifu-Bhutto meeting at the Presidential Palace took place shortly after Kaifu's arrival in Islamabad for a two-day visit.

Kaifu, accompanied by his wife Sachiyo, will fly to Sri Lanka on Thursday [3 May] for the fourth stop of his nine-day, five-nation tour of Asia. He will visit Indonesia before returning to Tokyo on Sunday [6 May].

Agreement on Kashmir

OW0205130490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1214 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 2 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto agreed on Wednesday [2 May] to seek a peaceful settlement to Pakistan's dispute with India over Kashmir.

Kaifu, in Pakistan during the third stop of a nine-day swing through five Asian nations, also pledged to continue Japan's financial aid to Afghanistan refugees in Pakistan.

The two leaders reached the agreement in a two-hour meeting at the Presidential Palace held shortly after Kaifu's arrival in Islamabad from Dhaka, according to a Japanese spokesman.

Kaifu, during a visit to New Delhi earlier this week, also urged India to exercise restraint over the Kashmir issue, which has created tension between the two neighboring countries in the past several months.

Bhutto drove with Kaifu to the Presidential Palace following a solemn welcoming ceremony at the airport marked by a 19-gun salute and a fly-by of six Pakistani Air Force jets.

News Conference Held

OW0305000390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1434 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday [2 May] called for a redeployment of troops from the Pakistan-India border to peacetime positions to defuse growing tension between the two South Asian countries over the Kashmir dispute.

Bhutto was addressing a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu following a two-hour meeting at the presidential palace.

Kaifu arrived in Islamabad earlier in the day for a two-day visit, the third stop in a five-nation tour of Asia.

Bhutto expressed her appreciation of remarks by Indian Prime minister V. P. Singh made during his talks with the Japanese prime minister earlier this week that India would take two steps, if Pakistan took one step to defuse the tension in Kashmir.

While reiterating Pakistan's willingness to open talks with India on the Kashmir issue, Bhutto said as a first step she would propose a redeployment of troops by Pakistan and India to peacetime positions and the evolution of a neutral mechanism to investigate allegations and counter-allegations being exchanged by the two countries.

Kaifu said he had urged both Pakistan and India to exercise restraint and start talking to each other to resolve the issue, in accordance with the Simla agreement signed by them in 1973.

Kaifu said Japan was concerned about a recent worsening in the situation between the two countries.

Kaifu said Japan is ready to play any peaceful role to defuse tension between the two South Asian states.

Kaifu, in an opening statement, expressed full satisfaction with the outcome of his talks with Bhutto, describing them as "frank and useful."

He said Japan's relations with Asian countries are significant because of the recent tendencies in the West to turn toward Europe.

"Japan supports political stability and economic prosperity of the South Asian countries through dialogue," Kaifu said, adding that as a fellow Asian country Japan's policy is to promote dialogue among Asian countries.

Bhutto said she would welcome a meeting with the Indian prime minister because the tensions on the Kashmir issue were holding up the whole process of normalization between the two countries.

The Pakistani prime minister extended wholehearted support to an Indian proposal that Japan should be made a dialogue member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Bhutto said Pakistan is grateful to Japan for its continued financial aid to support the 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Further on News Conference

BK0205163290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 90

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu has expressed his country's willingness to accept a mediatory role between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue so that peace is established in the region at the earliest possible time. He said this while addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad after more than three hours of talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

He said that Japan is very much concerned at the worsening situation in occupied Kashmir and he has appealed to the leaders of both countries to act with restraint to prevent further deterioration of the situation. The Japanese prime minister said he is most hopeful that the two countries will enter into a dialogue in the spirit of the the Simla agreement so the Kashmir issue is resolved peacefully.

Answering a question about Kashmir, the Pakistani prime minister said she is willing to hold a dialogue with the Indian prime minister on the Kashmir issue on the basis of the UN resolutions in the spirit of the Simla agreement to which the two countries are signatories. She added that Pakistan would welcome such a dialogue to carry forward the process of normalization of relations which has been overshadowed by the Kashmir dispute.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto appreciated the Indian prime minister's statement that if Pakistan took one step to promote agreement, India would respond by taking two steps. She said Pakistan has put forward various positive proposals, including redeployment of troops to peacetime positions and a neutral mechanism to verify allegations and counter-allegations, to reduce tension.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto strongly denied India's allegations that Pakistan is interfering in occupied Kashmir and training and arming freedom fighters. She emphasized that the uprising by Kashmiris is of an indigenous nature because India continues to deny them their basic right of self-determination, which has been recognized and supported by the United Nations.

The prime minister invited the journalists accompanying the Japanese prime minister and others to visit Azad Kashmir or any part of Pakistan to see for themselves whether there is any training camp for the freedom fighters as alleged by India. She said she only wished that such an offer also came from the other side so that you can see the repression committed against innocent men and women in occupied Kashmir. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is concerned with the atrocities committed in occupied Kashmir and strongly condemns it. In this context, she referred to the declaration of independence by Lithuania and the fact that the Soviet Union neither took such repressive measures nor alleged outside interference.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister appreciated the Japanese assistance and support to Pakistan on this issue and welcomed continuing Japanese aid for the Afghan refugees. She said Pakistan believes that the setting up of an independent and broad-based government is the key to a political solution of the Afghan issue. Pakistan would like to see Japan help in finding a political solution to this issue.

Both prime ministers in their opening statements expressed their complete satisfaction at the two rounds of talks between the two sides and described them as very useful. Commenting on the first round of talks, the prime minister said it covered political issues and the regional situation, while the second round covered international economic issues as well as bilateral, economic, trade, scientific, and cultural relations. She was confident that as a result of Mr. Kaifu's visit, understanding on regional and international issues will be further increased and the existing close and friendly bilateral relations will be further strengthened. She welcomed the new trends in Japan's foreign policy and its increasing interest in South Asia.

The Japanese prime minister welcomed the restoration of democracy in Pakistan with the establishment of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government and said his country will continue development assistance to Pakistan. Answering a question, he said the recent investment in Pakistan by the Japanese private sector is (?encouraging). He referred to the laying of the foundation stone of a Toyota plant to manufacture cars near Karachi recently and the enlargement of the existing Suzuki plant. Responding to the Pakistani prime minister's request, the Japanese Government has appointed an honorary adviser for investment by Japanese traders who will help further promote Japanese investment in Pakistan.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto in this context outlined the steps taken by her government to provide infrastructure and simplified procedures to facilitate foreign investments. She said her government has prepared numerous feasibility reports on many projects in the private sector and these reports have been given to Japan for possible investment. Answering a question, the Pakistani prime minister said Pakistan would welcome Japan in an interlocutory role in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Japan will provide additional assistance to the tune of about 21 billion yen for expansion of the telecommunications network in Pakistan. This was announced by the Japanese prime minister during his talks with the prime minister in Islamabad this afternoon.

The Japanese prime minister met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan this evening. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was also present. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan thanked Mr. Kaifu for his country's generous economic assistance which has significantly contributed to Pakistan's development.

Meets Ishaq Khan

OW0305050190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 3 KYODO—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan says Pakistan wants Japan to fill what he calls a "power vacuum" in Southwest Asia. "A power vacuum is emerging in Southwest Asia, and this should be filled by countries like Japan," the president was quoted as saying in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday [2 May]. Kaifu, in Islamabad for a two-day day visit, paid a courtesy call on Khan following a two-hour meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Japanese officials, briefing reporters on the Kaifu-Khan meeting, said the Pakistani president urged Japan to play a larger political role in the region in the face of growing tensions between India and Pakistan.

The two countries have been at loggerheads over the secessionist movement in Kashmir, an issue that has drawn them twice to war since their independence in 1947.

Kaifu, responding to Khan's request, gave yet another indication that Japan, as one of the largest aid donors to Pakistan and India, wants to get more involved in the affairs of the region.

"Japan would like to build relations with countries in Southwest Asia with greater width and depth," Kaifu reportedly told Khan.

Kaifu, speaking at a news conference sandwiched between his meetings with Bhutto and Khan, said Japan is ready to play "any role" in defusing tension between India and Pakistan.

Kaifu, currently on a nine-day, five-nation tour of Asia, visited India earlier in the week before coming to Islamabad on Wednesday.

Kaifu urged both Pakistan and India to exercise restraint over Kashmir during his talks with leaders of the two countries.

Playing a regional peacemaker backed by Japan's financial largesse, Kaifu committed 20 billion yen in fresh credits to Pakistan and another 100 billion yen to India for development projects in the two countries.

In addition, Kaifu pledged Japan's continued financial assistance to Pakistan for 3 million Afghan refugees displaced by civil war in Afghanistan.

Leaders Speak at Banquet

BK0305034890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Pakistan and Japan have called for a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir problem in the light of the Simla Agreement. The call was made by the two countries' prime ministers at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in honor of her Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu at the presidential palace in Islamabad last night.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged the international community to help prevent repression in Kashmir and bring about a meaningful discussion between Pakistan and India on the issue. She said the world should not remain a silent spectator in view of the serious situation now prevailing in Kashmir. She reassured that Pakistan is ready to consider any proposal that will help reduce tension and promote a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem. The Pakistani people, she said, cannot remain indifferent when people with whom they share common religion, culture, history, and geographical proximity are being suppressed for no crime other than demanding the right of freedom.

Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan does not want war, but the Pakistani people and the Armed Forces are fully vigilant to defend the country.

The prime minister appreciated Japan's principled stand on Afghanistan and said Pakistan is committed to a comprehensive solution of the problem, and this objective will be realized only when power is transferred to a broad-based government which enjoys the support of the Afghan people and which can establish peace and stability in the country, thereby enabling the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in safety.

Turning to bilateral relations, the prime minister said cooperation between Pakistan and Japan has been steadily growing in all fields. She hoped that Kaifu's visit will open up new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. She said Kaifu is visiting Pakistan after the restoration of democracy in the country where opportunities of progress are now open to all people without any discrimination.

In his speech, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will strive to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully through dialogue in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

Toshiki Kaifu underscored the need for the establishment of a broad-based representative government in Afghanistan as soon as possible and for taking realistic steps to ensure the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

The Japanese prime minister said his country is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in every possible way for the promotion of Japanese investment in this country. He said he has been impressed by the positive attitude adopted and interest shown by the Pakistani Government in promoting domestic and private foreign investments through liberalization of restrictions and strengthening of infrastructure.

Kaifu said he is encouraged to see the recent expansion of cultural exchanges between Pakistan and Japan. He said the exhibition of the miniature version of the Shalimar Garden at the international gardens and greenery exposition in Osaka is being acclaimed by the Japanese people. He said Japan has offered $340,000 for the preservation of Mohenjo Daro.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has accepted her Japanese counterpart's invitation to visit Japan some time next year. This was stated by an official spokesman of the Japanese prime minister at a news briefing in Islamabad.

Bhutto Invites Emperor To Visit

OW0305064590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto invited Japan's Emperor Akihito to Pakistan, Japanese officials say.

The officials said the invitation came during a meeting Bhutto had with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Wednesday.

Kaifu promised to relay the invitation to the emperor, who ascended to the throne in January of last year.

Bhutto, who visited Japan in February of last year for the state funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito, also accepted an invitation from Kaifu to visit Japan again some time next year, Japanese officials said.

If Emperor Akihito makes the trip, he would be the first Japanese monarch to visit Pakistan.

Departs for Sri Lanka

OW0305090190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 3 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 3 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's two-day visit to Pakistan ended Thursday [3 May] with a warm send-off by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as he embarked for Sri Lanka, the fourth stop of his five-nation Asian tour.

Kaifu and his wife Sachiyo had a private breakfast with Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari before leaving for Islamabad International Airport.

On his way to the airport, Kaifu took time out to mark his visit, the first by a Japanese premier in six years, by planting an olive sapling on the Shakraparian Hill overlooking the Pakistani capital. Mrs. Kaifu lent a helping hand in planting the sapling, and Bhutto remarked that she hopes the tree will grow like the growing friendship between the two countries.

The Kaifus were given a warm send-off at the airport by Bhutto and her husband in a ceremony joined by National Assembly Speaker Meraj Khalid and other dignitaries.

The special plane carrying the Kaifu party left Islamabad at 10 AM (2 PM Japan time) on the four-and-a-half-hour flight to Colombo.

Daily Terms Yaqub Khan-Gujral Talks 'Nonevent'

BK3004140490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Beyond New York"]

[Text] As could have been expected, the highly-controversial meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India has turned out to be a non-event insofar as any meaningful improvement in the regional climate is concerned. If anything, the forceful public reiteration of their conflicting positions on the merits and the current dynamics of the Kashmir dispute by the two sides following the Yaqub Khan-Gujral talks has further aggravated the impasse on the security question. Although it was officially claimed that the two Foreign Ministers had agreed to the adoption of certain measures to defuse the existing tension on the border between Pakistan and India, the measures announced for the purpose do not amount to any remarkable progress towards even the limited objective of averting an armed conflict between the two countries.

The obvious dictate of heading off the possibility of a physical confrontation in the days ahead is for India to withdraw its massive military buildup from along the border with Pakistan, especially from places it has concentrated its assault troops with the clear intention of launching an offensive campaign. The two Foreign Ministers' talks as also reported subsequent to the New York meeting give no indication of any movement in that direction. Although many observers in this country have expressed serious reservations about the propriety of Islamabad's agreeing to go into talks with India in the existing framework of New Delhi's repeated refusal to acknowledge its hostility towards Pakistan as a direct outcome of the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, it has now become clear that India is not serious even in its stated aim of defusing the chances of an armed conflict.

The threatening presence of Indian military machinery precariously close to the Pakistan border is no longer a situation being projected by Islamabad alone. It has also been corroborated by a number of outside witnesses including a team of international media representatives which toured the area recently. The newsmen reported a perfectly normal scenario on Pakistan's side of the border and a heightened state of military preparedness across the barbed wires and watch-towers which India has erected on its side of the dividing line. In terms of the disturbing prospects of the outbreak of perhaps unintended hostilities between the two sides, therefore, it remains a touch and go situation.

The conduct of the New York parleys should, at the same time, serve as an eye-opener to both our over-enthusiastic friends in the West whose pressure on both Pakistan and India led apparently to the holding of the Foreign Ministers' talks at a stage at which they had best been avoided, and to the policy-makers in Islamabad. The first lesson in this regard is that no matter how strongly India refuses to accept its bellicosity against Pakistan as a product of New Delhi's increasing frustration over its inability to crush the popular uprising in occupied Kashmir, India would just not be willing to forgo the option of 'teaching Pakistan a lesson'. There is thus no going round the basic question of addressing the Kashmir situation as also India's illegal occupation of the territory which has led to the current state of affairs.

As for Pakistan, it has, to begin with, to make up its own mind about what it intends to do about the challenge of Kashmir thrown up by circumstances which are clearly not of Pakistan's making. Now that the futility if not the counter-productivity of trying to make India give up its hostility for Pakistan has been seen by the world at large in the outcome of the disastrous round of the Yaqub Khan-Gujral talks, Islamabad should make it known to its Western friends that any repetition of direct talks between the two countries can only inflame the volatile regional peace. The looming crisis can be averted through nothing short of the withdrawal of Indian forces to their peace-time locations.

Simultaneously, Islamabad should waste no further time in building up on whatever limited international support it has so far been able to muster on the Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination as guaranteed repeatedly by successive UN Resolutions to which India is a party. Pakistan has to make a spirited effort to disabuse the issue of the Indian distortion stated once again by Mr Gujral that the Simla Accord makes UN Resolutions on Kashmir irrelevant. The issuing of mere rejoinders to this Indian position is not enough. The Kashmir question has to be brought back actively to its proper perspective without delay. The government of Pakistan really has no option but to step forward in the international comity of nations as the principal spokesman of the struggling Kashmiri masses.

The UN Resolutions must be brought out of the cold storage. Pakistan must also extricate itself from the crippling reliance on the United States of America and its allies in both the Western and the Muslim worlds which means in effect the acceptance of a role regionally subservient to India. The changing international correlations offer tremendous opportunities to strike a dynamic new equation with powers with which Pakistan can interact to mutual benefit.

Indian Kashmiri Leaders Comment on 'Struggle'

BK3004155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Professor Mohammad Ashraf Sarraf, a leader of freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir, has urged the peace-loving countries to exert pressure on India so that it will accept the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and make arrangements for conducting a plebiscite in occupied territories, thereby establishing peace in the region. Speaking at the Peshawar Press Club this afternoon, he said that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle until India agrees to a peaceful settlement to the issue.

Another leader of the freedom fighters, Hafiz Mohammad Anwar Sawabi, described as totally incorrect and baseless the Indian allegation that Pakistan is assisting the freedom fighters. In a statement in Rawalpindi, he said that the Kashmiri people are struggling for their independence with their own resources.

Envoy Rejects Indian Claim on UN Resolutions

BK0105144290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] Pakistan has rejected as contrary to international law an Indian claim that the UN resolutions calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir were dead. Speaking in La Crosse at a seminar on the changing world situation and the United Nations, organized by the University of Wisconsin, Pakistani Ambassador to the United Nations Nasim Ahmad said that if the Security Council's decisions and international agreements are to be treated as dead on account of political expediency, we shall be striking at the very foundations of the UN Charter and endangering world peace.

He said the present uprising in Kashmir against Indian rule stems from the failure to fulfill the pledges given to the Kashmiri people by the United Nations and the Governments of India and Pakistan. He called for measures by member states to ensure that the charter and decisions of the United Nations are respected to enable the world body to play a meaningful role.

1 Killed, 8 Injured in Bus Bombing in Lahore

BK3004154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] A blast occurred on a Sialkot-bound bus on Band Road in front of Mewa Mandi in Lahore this afternoon. One person was killed and eight injured. The bomb was reportedly placed in a crate of fruits under a seat. The injured have been admitted to the hospital.

Bomb Destroys Bus, Injures 14 Near Wazirabad

BK0105084090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 May 90

[Text] A bomb blew up a bus at village (Kot Hezri) near Wazirabad this morning. It was reportedly planted under a rear seat of the bus. The bus, with over two dozen passengers, was on its way to Gujranwala from Gujrat. According to APP, 14 passengers, including six women were injured, two of them seriously.

Sri Lanka

Japan's Kaifu Arrives for One-Day Visit

BK0305111590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 May 90

[Excerpt] The Japanese prime minister, Toshiki Kaifu, arrived in Sri Lanka today as part of his five-nation Asian swing including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia. He arrived in Colombo with his wife and member [as heard] delegation this afternoon. This is the first time that a Japanese prime minister is visiting Sri Lanka after a period of 32 years. The Sri Lankan government made elaborate arrangements to receive the Japanese prime minister and his entourage. He was accorded a red carpet welcome on arrival at the Colombo international airport, Katunayake.

During his one-day stay here, Mr. Kaifu will hold talks with President Premadasa. Japanese Ambassador Isamu Nitta said the talks between the two countries would usher in a new era of friendship, understanding, and cooperation. The Japanese prime minister will leave Sri Lanka for Indonesia on Friday the 4th at 0900.

The special aircraft carrying Mr. Kaifu and the party arrived at the Colombo international airport, Katunayake, at 1500 [0930 GMT] today. Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge and Mrs. Wijetunge received him on arrival at the airport along with the Japanese ambassador to Sri Lanka. [passage omitted].